

Bucking the stress

Wounded Warrior cowboy adventure aims to help veterans get over war trauma **Page 5**

PAUL MOSELEY, FORT WORTH (TEXAS) STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Marine veteran Jeremy Williams, who served three tours in Iraq, rides the bucking barrel at the Wildcatter Ranch outside Graham, Texas.

Your brain on Google

Studies find differences between the sexes show up in Internet use **Page 12**



Marines' plans could go before Guam voters

Legislators mull nonbinding referendum on troop move

By **TERI WEAVER**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Guam voters may get a chance later this year to say whether they want 8,000 U.S. Marines and their families to move onto the island, according to Guam lawmakers.

The proposed referendum would also ask voters whether the military should be allowed to lease Guam-controlled lands currently set aside for residential development and for reparations for some island residents who lost land decades ago to military use.

Lawmakers and leaders from both parties support the idea of the nonbinding vote, though for differing reasons, according to interviews with Guam senators in recent days.

Some say a strong showing could help persuade federal leaders to funnel more money to Guam, a U.S. territory that lacks a full vote in Congress and grapples daily with an inadequate tax base, aging infrastructure, troubled public schools, an overcrowded hospital and an overflowing landfill.

Others say that after three years of ample public discussion but few tangible investments, the public deserves a say about the

project, especially now that the military is surveying land outside its fences to find adequate room for firing ranges.

Gauging the support of this last issue — the military's need for more land — is the most important part of the proposal, according to Sen. Benjamin J.F. Cruz, sponsor of the referendum.

"There was a lot of concern from the community about losing that much property to the military," said Cruz, a Democrat and vice speaker of the legislature. "I thought, well, let's ask the people."

As currently written, the referendum would take place 90 days after it's approved by the legislature.

The special election would cost \$150,000 to \$200,000. Cruz said he hopes for a vote in the legislature in coming days.

More than three years ago, U.S. and Japanese governments announced an agreement to move Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa to Guam. The buildup plans have grown to include the addition of an Army air defense unit and the ability to host weeks-long aircraft carrier visits.

SEE GUAM ON PAGE 2

Remade roster



Charlotte's D.J. Augustin

Coach's many moves help turn Bobcats into playoff contender

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QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"Instead of pushing people away, I need to educate them and help them understand what we are going through."

—Jeremy Williams, 26, who served three tours in Iraq, on his trip to Wildcatter Ranch in Texas, part of the Wounded Warrior Project

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Obama considers gays in military

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House says President Barack Obama has begun consulting his top defense advisers on how to lift a ban on gays serving openly in the military.

But the administration won't say how soon that might happen or whether a group of experts will be commissioned to study the issue in-depth, as some Democrats have suggested.

The move enables Obama to say he's making good on his campaign promise to reverse the law, but doesn't lock him into doing so anytime soon.

The carefully calculated statement, released this week by White House spokesman Tommy Vietor, leaves enough wiggle room to

prevent the hot-button issue from consuming Obama's foreign policy agenda, which is dominated by ending the Iraq war and salvaging operations in Afghanistan.

"The president supports changing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Vietor said in the e-mailed statement.

"As part of a long-standing pledge," Obama has begun consulting closely with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen "so that this change is done in a sensible way that



Obama

strengthens our armed forces and our national security," Vietor said.

The statement was released in response to legislation reintroduced on Monday by Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., that would repeal the ban. Tauscher's bill attracted 148 co-sponsors last year, but House leadership never pushed for a floor vote.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said she supports repealing the ban and would like to see a group of experts study the issue.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton sought to open the military to gays as one of his first acts as president. The issue quickly divided Democrats and helped GOP critics cast Clinton as a social liberal out of touch with the military.

Guam: Military footprint must expand

GUAM, FROM PAGE 1

It amounts to an expansion of the current 14,000 troops and Pentagon workers to an estimated 40,000 by 2014.

Currently, the military controls a little more than a quarter of the island's 212 square miles, according to Sen. Judith Guthertz, another Democrat who heads the legislature's Committee on the Guam Military Buildup and Homeland Security.

Earlier this year, military leaders shepherding the project told Guam officials they needed to look beyond the Navy and Air Force's current land holdings to accommodate the Marines' need for firing ranges, senators interviewed said. It was a change in tack for the military's Joint Guam Project Office, whose officials had said for years they hoped not to increase the military's footprint on the island. As plans developed, that goal became harder, according to Capt. Neil Ruggerio, a spokesman for the project office.

With the buildup, the military needs more area for rifle and machine gun ranges, he said. That means the military also needs to secure a pie-shaped wedge of land behind the targets for safety reasons. On existing bases, that safety area comes too close to popular tourist areas, endangered species' domains and munitions storage, Ruggerio said.

This week, surveyors from the Navy's Facilities Engineering Command in Hawaii are on Guam to look for adequate land. No land has been selected, though the military is talking with landowners and local mayors as it surveys, Ruggerio said. Some of the surveyed area includes Guam-controlled land in the Chamorro Land Trust Commission



Defense Secretary Robert Gates tours Guam last May. The U.S. now is looking for more land on the island since existing facilities likely cannot contain the expansion.

JERRY MORRISON
Courtesy of the Defense Department

and the Ancestral Lands Trust Commission, according to senators who were interviewed.

The former is undeveloped land set aside for residents who were on the island before 1950. Those who qualify for the land can lease plots; in return, the government uses the lease payments to invest in infrastructure for the lots.

The second category is reserved for families who lost land during World War II but cannot reclaim it because of current use.

"You have to be very sensitive here," said Guthertz, who added she had not made up her mind about the land-use issue.

"People had difficult experiences at the end of World War II. ... There has to be an overwhelming reason [to use more land]. That's going to be a hard nut to crack for our indigenous people."

Sen. Edward Calvo, the legislature's minority leader, said he too supported the referendum and he thought a public vote would

overwhelmingly favor the buildup.

"The biggest question is paying for the election," he said Tuesday.

"And, if we find out that it's not supported any more, we have to find out why."

Military officials, in a written statement, said they would welcome the public's opinion.

The office of Republican Gov. Felix Camacho also had indicated support. Any passage would send a vote of confidence for the project, Lt. Gov. Michael Cruz wrote last week in response to written questions.

A public rejection, however, could slow down the process, Lt. Gov. Cruz wrote.

"Whether or not it will stop the process is tough to determine," he added.

Even Sen. Benjamin Cruz, who does not support the buildup, acknowledged that the referendum effort may be moot. "We may not have a choice in the matter," he said.

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Troops waiting for Dow to hit bottom

Many watch, wait for panic to subside

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 1st Class Raymond Hughes wants to get back into the stock market — but not yet.

Few servicemembers would blame Hughes for his skittishness after the market's latest lows.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped below 7,000 for the first time since 1997 Monday after investors reacted to worse-than-expected news on industrial and construction output.

Insurance firm American Industrial Group's posted \$61.7 billion quarterly loss announced Monday further signaled to investors that more bailouts may be necessary for some of the country's largest financial companies.

"Banks are making bad choices, and while I'm definitely interested in investing again, I'm hesitant to do so at the present time," said Hughes, of Submarine Group Seven at Yokosuka Naval Base. "I want to wait until the market is at rock bottom before getting back in."

Although rock bottom is notoriously hard to time, most economic experts don't foresee a dramatic reversal of current misfortunes in 2009.

However, that doesn't mean that servicemembers and others shouldn't be contributing to their retirement funds, says Jim McDaniel, an accredited financial counselor working at Yokota Air Base's Airman and Family Readiness Center.

People planning on retiring in 10 or more years should seriously consider investing in the stock market now, McDaniel said.

McDaniel points to Dow's record of rebounding over the long haul, according to charts since its inception in 1896.

Even during recent large corrections, such as when the Dow dropped to 7,286 on Oct. 9, 2002, it rebounded to the 10,000 range by the end of 2003.

"What's driving the market right now is that people are panicking," McDaniel said. "And when they panic, there is a tendency to sell at the wrong time."

Servicemembers looking for an ultraconservative investment can put their earnings in the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund, a special-issue government Treasury fund that earns about 3.6 percent interest per year.

Those looking to cash in their retirement funds in the next few years should put their cash in low-risk investments like Treasury bills and certificates of deposit, McDaniel said.

However, even low-risk funds come at a cost, he said, especially for long-term investors.

A low-risk investment may just barely keep up with inflation, meaning little or no real gain as the costs of goods and services rise.

There is also an "opportunity cost" that goes with an overly conservative approach. It will take far longer to earn the type of gains historically found on average in the stock market, McDaniel said.

Servicemembers on Tuesday said they believed the market would eventually right itself.

Petty Officer 1st Class Gerald Casares of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Center in Atsugi said he hoped to buy more shares soon but wonders how much lower the market will fall.

"I'm taking a beating right now, but the market is cyclical, so I'm expecting it to go back up eventually," Casares said.

Brian Phillips, an Air Force retiree and a teacher at Yokota West Elementary, said he has little choice but to ride out the market turmoil. "If I was going to take my money out, I would have done it a long time ago," he said.

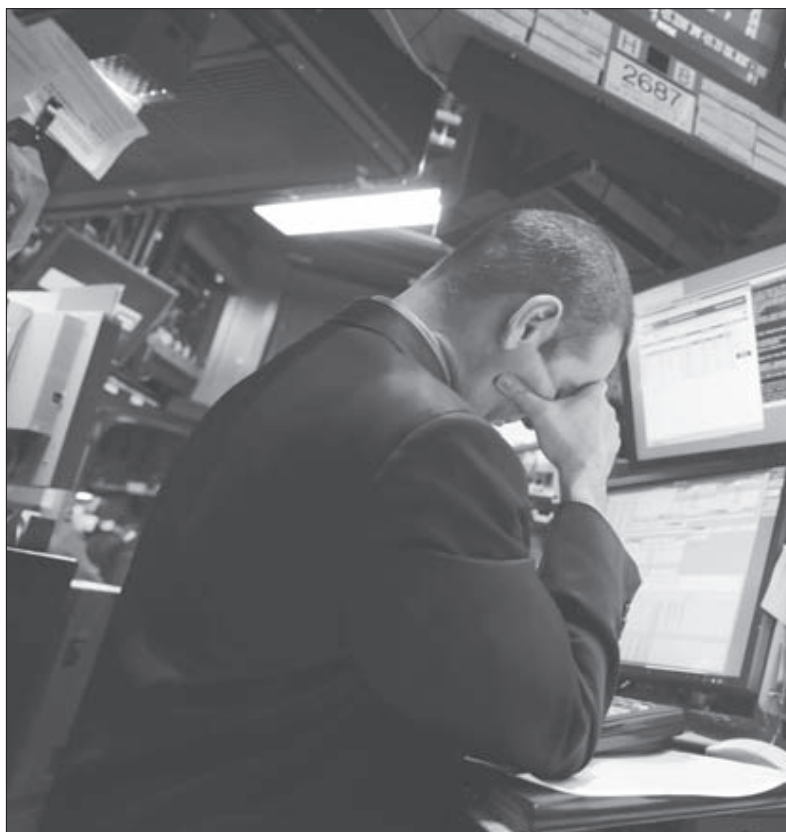
Stars and Stripes reporters David J. Carter and Bryce Dube contributed to this story.

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"I'm taking a beating right now, but the market is cyclical, so I'm expecting it to go back up eventually."

Petty Officer 1st Class
Gerald Casares

Center for Naval Aviation Technical
Training Center in Atsugi



RICHARD DREW/AP

Michael Sollitto works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Monday. The declining markets have servicemembers, like all Americans, guessing when the rebound will come and trying to decide how to invest their money.

Value of yen holds steady

The Japanese yen barely budged at 97.65 to the dollar just before markets closed Tuesday. The recent two-week dollar spike against the yen reverses months of steady decline.

In August 2008, a dollar earned 110 yen, but it weakened steadily to the point where it was hovering around 87 yen just before Christmas, trickling upward to 90.54 yen on Feb. 12.

Japan's currency has strengthened as investors have acquired yen while selling riskier investments worldwide.

However, the strong yen has crippled Japan's economy as its companies struggle to sell exports like electronics and vehicles, which are now more expensive in key consumer markets.

Meanwhile, the South Korean won rebounded slightly but remained at one of its lowest values against the dollar in 11 years after currency markets closed Tuesday. The currency gained 18 won to

rise to 1,552 to the dollar Tuesday after news of government intervention to prop up the currency, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

The won fell Monday on the heels of the U.S. Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeting below 7,000. Most world markets followed the Dow's dive.

The weak won means goods and services will continue to be a relative bargain for servicemembers paid in dollars.

But it also means that the cost-of-living allowances servicemembers enjoyed when the won was stronger will not be back anytime soon.

The won has nose-dived since 2008 as investors have flocked out of South Korea's comparatively less-developed economy. A year ago the dollar bought about 950 won, about 600 fewer than it buys today.

— Erik Slavin

Be wary of spring break offers

Pacific region schools warned students and parents Tuesday about spring break trip offers that appear to be sponsored by Defense Department schools.

Schools in Japan, South Korea and Guam "do not sponsor, sanction or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students" during the April break, according to a release from Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Pacific.

"Each year, many tour companies offer trips to a variety of vacation spots," the release said. "Some of these trips are marketed as senior trips and can be misleading to parents who think that the trips are sponsored and sanctioned by DODDS."

Spring break for schools in the Pacific is scheduled for April 6-10.

Parents were advised to research any trips or activities during student breaks

and to check with the State Department for travel advisories.

The department's Web site for students traveling abroad is <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>

Japan bases score awards

Pacific naval bases won multiple honors in the 2008 fiscal year Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards competition, according to a Navy news release.

Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa and Yokosuka Naval Base won two of three awards in the installation-level cultural resources management category. Teruyo Nishibayashi also won an individual award for cultural resources management.

Yokosuka Naval Base won one of two awards given for environmental quality at an overseas installation.

Sasebo Naval Base was one of three bases that received honors for pollution

prevention at a non-industrial base.

Twenty-nine environmental awards will be given out June 2 at a ceremony in Washington at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center.

Hospital to host meeting

CAMP LESTER, Okinawa — U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa will hold a town hall meeting March 12, according to a Navy release.

The Health Care Consumer Council Meeting will provide an update on hospital news, and allow patients to address concerns.

The meeting will start at 3 p.m. at the Lester Chapel, the release said.

The hospital's commanding officer, Capt. Brian Dawson, and Tricare representatives will be available to answer questions, the release said.

For more information, contact the hospi-

tal's public affairs office at DSN 643-7294.

Auditions set for 'Follies'

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Pacific Okinawa Players will hold auditions March 16 for singers, dancers and actors to perform in "Follies!"

The community theater is casting 15 to 20 performers for its stage variety show, and is looking for talent of all ages, an Okinawa Players release said.

Auditions will be held at 6 p.m. at the Kubasaki High School auditorium. Performers should bring music or instrument needed for their audition number.

The show will debut April 30 at the Coral Cove at Torii Station.

For more information, contact publicist Chrissy Barnett Miller at DSN 645-7099 or visit www.pops-okinawa.org.

From staff reports

Misawa monitoring North Korea missiles

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. military is closely monitoring activities in North Korea from its bases in Japan ahead of the expected launch of a long-range missile that could be capable of striking U.S. territory, officials said Tuesday.

The North said last week that it would launch a communications satellite into orbit. But neighboring governments believe the satellite claim may be a cover for a missile launch and have warned the regime not to carry out any "provocative" actions.

Analysts say satellite images reveal brisk activity at a launch pad in North Korea's northeast.

U.S. military officials at Misawa Air Base, which is on Japan's northern fringe just across the Sea of Japan from North Korea, said they are closely watching the situation but refused to provide any details about the possible timing of the launch.

"U.S. Army forces in Japan are always vigilant and more than capable of defending Japan from any threat, including ballistic missiles, and as always we are working closely with our Japanese allies," Maj. James Craw-

ford, a spokesman for the U.S. Army in Japan, said Tuesday.

Japan, which is within easy range of the North's arsenal, has long been anxious about missile activity from North Korea, which in 1998 launched a long-range ballistic missile over its main island and well into the Pacific, almost reaching Alaska.

Since then, Japan and the United States have worked together on ballistic missile defense and have built a multibillion dollar ballistic missile shield that includes interceptor missiles both onboard ships at sea and Patriot missile units that ring Tokyo and are also positioned on the island of Okinawa — where more than half of the 50,000 U.S. troops in Japan are deployed.

North Korea unsuccessfully test-fired a long-range missile in 2006 — the same year it conducted its first nuclear test — but is believed to have made improvements in its missile capabilities.

Officials say Misawa is a frontline station for monitoring North Korean activity. If U.S. military satellites detect a flash of heat from a missile range in North Korea, within seconds computers at the base can plot a rough trajectory.



ITSUO INOUE/AP

U.S. soldiers stand near the Joint Tactical Ground Station antenna, part of the missile defense initiative at Misawa Air Base, Japan, in this January 2008 photo. The U.S. is closely monitoring activities in North Korea from its bases in Japan ahead of the expected launch of a long-range missile, officials said Tuesday.

North Korea responds to exercise with rhetoric

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea vowed Tuesday to punish U.S. and South Korean "warmongers" after the American military said it would go ahead with annual joint exercises that Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal.

Tensions in Northeast Asia have spiked amid mounting concern over the North's apparent plan to test-launch a missile believed capable of reaching the U.S. west coast.

Many analysts have said the launch threat is a bid to draw President Barack Obama's attention as his administration formulates its North Korea policy to move stalled international disarmament talks forward. Obama's new envoy to North Korea arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to the region for talks with his counterparts to the nuclear talks.

North Korea's military demanded Monday that the U.S.-South Korean drills be called off during rare talks with U.S.-led U.N. forces on the Korean peninsula, according to media reports.

But U.S. military spokesman Kim Yong-kyu said Tuesday the exercises — involving 26,000 American troops, an unspecified number of South Korean soldiers, and a U.S. aircraft carrier — would go ahead at sites across South Korea from March 9-20.

On Tuesday, the North's state media said the U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers were aimed at "rounding off the capability to make a military strike."

"The revolutionary armed forces of [North Korea] are in full combat readiness to resolutely shatter any provocation of the enemy," the Minju Joson newspaper said in a commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea has routinely condemned any military exercises as rehearsal for an attack. Washington and Seoul say they have no such intention.

Soldiers draw gear for large-scale exercise

By FRANKLIN FISHER
Stars and Stripes

Troops from the states who in wartime would get their combat gear from a warehouse at Camp Carroll in South Korea will practice drawing it there Thursday before using it in a big training exercise.

About 300 soldiers of Task Force Hawkins began arriving on the peninsula this week to take part in the annual Key Resolve/Foal Eagle exercise. They're from Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Sill, Okla., and include armor and field artillery units.

They'll "fall in" on military equipment warehoused by the Army Field Support Battalion-Northeast Asia, which is headquartered at Carroll. The battalion is part of the 403rd Support Brigade at Camp Henry in Daegu.

"An exercise like this allows soldiers to practice their real-world mission requirements" of drawing combat equipment in South Korea if hostilities erupted on the peninsula, said Army Maj. Jerome L. Pionk, a spokesman for the 8th U.S. Army in Seoul.

The equipment draw will start Thursday and continue Friday, said Lt. Col. Raymond Jensen, commanding officer of the battalion.

From Warehouse 15, the troops will mount M1A1 Abrams tanks, M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzers, and other equipment.

They'll inventory the gear and do maintenance checks, then test drive the vehicles.

The equipment will then be moved to the post's railhead,

KEY RESOLVE FOAL EAGLE



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above: Soldiers check the condition of combat equipment in this March 2007 photo and prepare it for transport to a training range. The annual retrieval and inventory of the vehicles was set to take place again Thursday at Camp Carroll, South Korea, as part of the Key Resolve/Foal Eagle exercise.

Left: Soldiers ready combat vehicles for transport in March 2007.

where workers of the Army Materiel Support Center-Korea will load it onto railcars. It'll be hauled north Thursday and Friday to the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex.

The U.S. military stores pre-

positioned stocks at Camp Carroll and at other places in South Korea and in Japan, so that they're ready in the event of war or other crises, Jensen said.

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FROM IRAQ TO THE RANGE

PHOTOS BY PAUL MOSELEY, FORT WORTH (TEXAS) STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Military veterans line the arena fence to get tips from cowboys Jay Brewer, left, and Coby Allred at the Wildcatter Ranch outside of Graham, Texas. The owners of the ranch and the Wounded Warrior Project invited 15 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to have fun while being around other veterans dealing with the effects of combat stress.

At Texas ranch, a change of scenery and pace for military veterans

By CHRIS VAUGHN
McClatchy Newspapers

GRAHAM, Texas — The men crewed 50-calibers through Iraq neighborhoods, survived roadside bomb blasts, attended memorial services for buddies.

Now they were being asked to cut cattle, on foot, in front of one another and a handful of real cowboys. It's safe to say there wasn't exactly a rush to start.

But within a few minutes, the 15 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan — almost all of them self-described city boys whose experience with livestock extends only to the dinner plate — had learned a thing or two about patience and teamwork, and for a few minutes of laughter and sweat, they could forget about the war that still haunts them.

"It's like we're back in the field now," said Jeremy Williams, a 26-year-old who served three tours in Iraq with the Marines.

The veterans came from throughout the United States to spend four days at the stylish Wildcatter Ranch outside Graham, invited by the Wounded Warrior Project and the owners of the ranch to help restore their spirits. Some of the men have physical injuries, but each of them is struggling to deal with combat stress and their return to civilian society.

The Wounded Warrior Project, based in Florida but with an office in San Antonio, paid for the men's transportation. Anne Street Skipper, who co-owns the Wildcatter Ranch with her brother, took care of everything else.

The men went canoeing down Connor Creek and rode horses through the rolling hills of Young County. They consumed rib-eyes and chicken-frieds, got massages, shot skeet. They stayed in luxurious rooms, and they visited an elementary school, where the children gave them Graham Steers ballcaps.

"I have never seen anything like this be-



Professional bull rider Greg Potter catches military veteran Jeremy Williams of Willis, Texas, who was bucked off the barrel horse.

fore," said Harvey Stubbs Jr., a Chicago-area native who was medically retired from the Army because of his injuries. "The outpouring of love from this town has been amazing. A lot of people give lip service to supporting the troops, but these people have opened their hearts to us in ways I can't believe."

It was the second year that the Wildcatter Ranch — a luxury resort and retreat, not a working ranch — hosted a group of veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress, a mental-health problem that affects thousands of servicemembers who have deployed to war in recent years.

Most of the Project Odyssey trips run by the Wounded Warrior Project are in national parks. Wildcatter is the only one in Texas.

"We hope to get them to a place in a non-threatening environment, where they can have fun and have an opportunity to be around veterans going through the same thing," said Will Chick, an outreach coordinator for the

project in San Antonio. "That way if they find themselves in crisis, they have someone they can contact, someone they already trust."

Stubbs, 32, who served with the 3rd Infantry Division, survived three roadside bombs in Baghdad but has disabling injuries from the last. His left foot was reattached and new toes were fashioned out of tissue from his hip.

"I'm in pain every day, and I thank God for that," he said. "It could have been a lot worse. I made it. Other guys didn't."

He said leaving the military and returning to civilian life is difficult, a lot more than most people can comprehend. Well-meaning people ask intrusive questions and don't understand what it is like to live with memories of war.

"Being around other veterans is the best part" of the Wildcatter Ranch trip, he said. "I don't have to worry about someone judging me. I don't have to edit my words. The fun is in riding the horses."

Williams, who lives in a small town near Huntsville, Texas, and attends Sam Houston State University, served in the Marines for six years until he was medically retired after a roadside bomb blast in Ramadi in April 2006 during his third tour in Iraq. He has a traumatic brain injury from the blast and post-traumatic stress, and he came home to a failed marriage.

On Tuesday night, he couldn't sleep. He got up to go outside to smoke a cigarette. There were four other veterans on the front porch doing the same. They each shared insights into what was bothering him and how to work it out in his head. That's why he's grateful for the four-day trip to Graham.

"I think I've learned to be more open-minded about people and talkative," he said. "Instead of pushing people away, I need to educate them and help them understand what we are going through."

Corps briefs lawmaker on details of Dec. crash

By JEFF SCHOGOL
Stars and Stripes

A deadly F/A-18D crash in San Diego in December could have been prevented, said U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, a Republican lawmaker whose district includes San Diego.

Four members of the same family died when the plane crashed while trying to land at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The pilot, identified in the San Diego Union-Tribune as Lt. Dan Neubauer, ejected safely.

The Marine Corps has released four officers from duty and reprimanded another nine personnel in connection with the incident, said Joe Kasper, a spokesman for Hunter.

On Tuesday, Corps officials briefed Hunter on the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The Corps found that the pilot had to shut one of the plane's engines down after takeoff due to a mechanical problem with the plane's fuel transfer system, Kasper said.

But neither the pilot nor the tower crew consulted their checklists, which require that a plane with such a problem land immediately, he said.

The pilot had at least three opportunities to land, but he kept flying to Miramar, where the plane crashed on approach, Kasper said.

The Corps also found that the plane's problems with the fuel transfer system had been discovered before the flight, but technical manuals did not explicitly call for aircraft with such problems to be grounded, he said.

Since the crash, the Corps has made it clear that problems with the fuel transfer system must be fixed before an aircraft can fly again, Kasper said.

The Marine officers from their duties were the squadron commander, operations officer, standardization officer and maintenance officer, Hunter said in a statement Tuesday.

"The Marine Corps provided an informative and candid assessment of the events leading up to the crash," Hunter said in the statement. "The entire evolution of the incident was thoroughly examined and I greatly appreciate the Marine Corps' openness about these details and the expediency of their investigation."

E-mail Jeff Schogol at: jeffrey.schogol@stars.osd.mil

Mother of two won't be called back, lawyer says

RALEIGH, N.C. — The North Carolina mother who reported for Army duty with her two young children will be discharged from the military, her attorney said Monday.

Attorney Mark Waple of Fayetteville said it wasn't yet clear if Lisa Pagan would receive an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. It also wasn't certain when she would be discharged.

The reason for the discharge will be that she doesn't have, and cannot have, adequate family care for her two young children, he said.

From The Associated Press

"MOST WELCOME"

Japanese Traditional
MARUARA - WATANABE

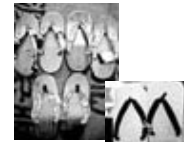
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U.S. told to leave Manas by Aug. 18

Stars and Stripes

Kyrgyzstan has set Aug. 18, 2009, as the final day of U.S. operations at Manas Air Base, though officials say bargaining is continuing and a deal could yet be struck to keep the crucial supply hub open.

The Kyrgyz parliament voted on Feb. 19 to close the base, and President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed the bill into law the next day.

Those acts gave the U.S. a deadline of 180 days to vacate the base.

But Defense Secretary Robert Gates, traveling in Poland shortly after the vote, said he was hopeful the decision could be reversed.

"I continue to believe this is not a closed issue, and that there remains the potential to reopen this issue," Gates told reporters. "But we are developing alternative methods of getting resupply and people into Afghanistan."

"We are prepared to look at the fees and see if there is justification for a somewhat larger payment. But we're not going to be ridiculous about it."

Bakiyev announced his desire to close the base last month after Russian officials pledged \$2 billion in financial aid and loans to the former Soviet Republic.

The closure could hamper efforts to support President Barack Obama's announced plan to send an additional

17,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan this year.

In late February, Uzbekistan announced it would allow the U.S. to transport non-military supplies through its territory, a reversal of a 2005 decision that shut an earlier U.S. air base in that country.

Money, along with regional competition with Russia, appears to be a central issue in both cases. U.S. operations at the base contributed around \$64 million to the Kyrgyz economy in fiscal 2008.

The money included \$17.4 million in payments for use of the base, \$22.5 million for airport operating and land lease fees, and \$23.7 million in contracts such as construction projects and commodity purchases.

In the same time frame, Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers flew 3,294 refueling missions from the base to support air operations over Afghanistan, officials said. More than 170,000 coalition personnel passed through the base on their way in or out of Afghanistan, and Manas was the transit point for 5,000 tons of cargo, including spare parts and equipment, uniforms and various items to support personnel and mission needs.

Currently, around 1,000 U.S. troops, along with a few hundred from Spain and France, are assigned to the base.

250 more Americans



MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

U.S. servicemembers take the oath of citizenship during Tuesday's naturalization ceremony at al-Faw Palace at Camp Victory in Baghdad. About 250 troops from 65 countries became citizens.

GI dies in shelling of U.S. base in Mosul

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Shells hit a main U.S.-Iraqi base Tuesday in the northern city of Mosul, killing one American soldier and striking at the Iraqi command directing an offensive against insurgents waging some of their bloodiest attacks in recent months.

The barrage underscored the resilience of al-Qaida in Iraq and other groups after repeated attempts to break their hold in Mosul — where at least seven U.S. soldiers have been killed since early February.

The city — one of the insurgents' last urban strongholds — represents one of the key showdowns with the U.S. combat role set to end in August 2010. American military planners have backed up Iraqi forces in the latest crackdown.

The rounds hit the base in southern Mosul,

known as Forward Operating Base Diamond-back by U.S. forces, according to the U.S. military. U.S. officials did not give other details, but Iraqi police described the shelling as mortar strikes. The site includes the Iraqi security command for the entire province, which is coordinating the current offensive. The last mortar barrage on the site was nearly two months ago, the Iraqi official said.

But insurgents have targeted forces with repeated roadside bombings and suicide attacks.

Last month, a suicide car bomber struck a U.S. patrol in Mosul, killing four American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in the deadliest single attack against U.S. forces in nine months. Then, last week, two Iraqi policemen opened fire on visiting U.S. soldiers, killing one American in an attack that deepened worries of possible infiltration of security forces.

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IN THE STATES



President Barack Obama



President Dmitry Medvedev

Obama signals missile defense plans flexible

By STEVEN R. HURST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has written to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev suggesting U.S. plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe might be unnecessary if Moscow helped in blocking Iran's progress toward building long-range missiles, senior administration officials said on Tuesday.

Plans for deploying U.S. missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic, ostensibly to guard against Iranian attacks on U.S. allies in Europe, are among a host of issues that soured U.S.-Russia relations during the former Bush administration. There have been indications Obama, who has vowed to shake up American foreign policy, might be willing to set aside the missile defense system.

Medvedev said he had talked with Obama over the phone and exchanged letters with him, but added that there was "no talk about some kind of trade-off, or quid pro quo."

"No, issues haven't been put that way; it would be unproductive," he said at a news conference Tuesday, which followed talks in Madrid with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodri-

guez Zapatero.

Medvedev reaffirmed a strong opposition to the previous U.S. administration's plan to deploy a battery of missile interceptors in Poland and a related radar in the Czech Republic, saying the move would hurt security in Europe.

Medvedev said Russia was encouraged by Obama's administration's readiness to discuss Moscow's complaints.

"Our American partners are ready to discuss this problem, and that's already positive," he said at a news conference. "Several months ago we were hearing different signals: The decision has been made, there is nothing to discuss, we will do what we have decided to do."

"Now I hope the situation is different," Medvedev added. "But no one is linking these issues to some kind of trade-offs, particularly on the Iranian issue. We are already working in close contact with our U.S. counterparts on the Iranian nuclear issue."

A senior U.S. official had told The AP earlier that the suggestion in Obama's letter to Medvedev was that the need for a missile defense deployment "could become unnecessary if, working together with Russia, the Iran missile threat is addressed."

Documents reveal rights opinions

By DEVLIN BARRETT
AND MATT APUZZO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, the Bush administration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply as the U.S. stepped up its response to terrorism, according to documents released to the public for the first time.

In nine legal opinions disclosed Monday by the Obama administration, the Justice Department under President George W. Bush claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers. Within two weeks of the 2001 attacks, government lawyers were discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants.

Also revealed by the Obama administration in court documents Monday: The CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes — far more than previously known — of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects. Congressional Democrats and other critics have charged that some of the harsh interrogation techniques amounted to torture, a contention that Bush and other officials rejected.

The Bush administration eventually abandoned many of the legal conclusions, but the documents themselves had been closely held. By releasing them, President

Barack Obama continued a housecleaning of the Bush administration's most contentious policies.

"Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech as the documents were being prepared for release. "Not only is that school of thought misguided, I fear that in actuality it does more harm than good."

The legal memos written by the Bush administration's Office of Legal Counsel show a government grappling with how to wage war on terrorism in a fast-changing world. The conclusion, reiterated in page after page of documents, was that the president had broad authority to set aside constitutional rights.

Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted search and seizure, for instance, did not apply in the United States as long as the president was combating terrorism, the Justice Department said in an Oct. 23, 2001, memo.

"First Amendment speech and press rights may also be subordinated to the overriding need to wage war successfully," Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo wrote, adding later: "The current campaign against terrorism may require even broader exercises of federal power domestically."

Memo details moves on prisoner transfer

WASHINGTON — A Bush-era legal memo gives new detail on how the White House tiptoed around laws and treaties to justify presidential power to transfer prisoners captured in the war on terror to countries where they might be tortured.

The March 13, 2002, memo by Jay S. Bybee, then assistant attorney general in the White House office of legal counsel, said the president has an unfettered right to transfer prisoners captured in the war on terror to governments around the world without regard for whether they would be tortured there.

The memo appears to underpin the Bush administration's extraordinary rendition program.

When the memo was written, the White House legal office had already decided that al-Qaida and Taliban detainees were not protected by the Geneva Conventions.

From The Associated Press



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Defending the budget

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's top economic officials on Tuesday vigorously defended tax hikes in the administration's \$3.6 trillion budget against Republican claims that they would affect nearly all Americans.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and White House Budget Director Peter Orszag, in separate appearances on Capitol Hill, stuck to the administration line that the president's budget would benefit 95 percent of working Americans.

Higher taxes for affluent Americans would not come until 2011 once "we are safely into recovery," Geithner told the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "I'm confident this is the right path for the country."

But Republicans argued that the portion of the budget that would require polluters to purchase permits from the government for their emissions would essentially impose huge new energy costs on consumers and businesses.

"The president's budget increases taxes on every American, and does so during a recession," Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., told Geithner.

Camp also complained about provisions that would limit the size of charitable contributions

that could be taken by families earning more than \$250,000 a year.

But Geithner defended the proposals, saying far more people would benefit from lower taxes under the plan.

Orszag faced similar questioning before the House Budget Committee.

Obama and his top aides have been promoting the budget package since unveiling an outline last week, but Tuesday provided lawmakers their first opportunity to publicly question top officials over details.

The one-year budget deficit for 2009 is 12.3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. That's up from 3.2 percent in 2008 and the highest since 1945.

Orszag acknowledged the sheer enormity of the projected deficit. But, he told the Budget Committee, it would be "worse if we failed to act."

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke was generally supportive of Obama's efforts to stimulate the economy.

Bernanke told the Senate Budget Committee that Obama's recently enacted \$787 billion stimulus package of increased federal spending and tax cuts should help revive consumer spending, boost factory production and "mitigate the overall loss of employment and income that would otherwise occur."



MANUEL BALCE CENETA / AP

Budget Director Peter Orszag testifies Tuesday before the House Budget Committee hearing on the fiscal year 2010 federal budget.

Navy probes helo data breach

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy is investigating how an unauthorized user in Iran gained online access to blueprints and other information about a helicopter in President Barack Obama's fleet.

Employees at data monitoring firm Tiversa last week discovered that potentially sensitive information about the helicopter had been viewed by a "malicious" source in Iran, company spokesman Scott Harrer said Monday.

Tiversa late last year notified a Bethesda, Md.-based defense contractor that there was an "open window" in their network leaking information about the helicopter. But the first known breach came



AP

Marine One prepares to land at the White House on Feb. 16. The Navy is investigating the online access of sensitive information about a presidential aircraft.

last week by an Iranian source who had been actively trying to harvest sensitive information, Harrer said.

Lockheed Martin Corp., which is headquartered in Bethesda and manufacturing a new fleet of presidential helicopters, is not the source of the leak, Harrer said. But

he declined to identify Tiversa's client, or the source of the leak.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said the information accessed about the aircraft is unclassified, and the president does not ride in that specific helicopter.

Federal Reserve allots \$200B to spur lending

By JEANNINE AVERSA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Tuesday rolled out a much-awaited program aimed at boosting the availability of credit to consumers and small businesses.

The Fed will lend up to \$200 billion to spur consumer lending — for autos, education, credit cards and other consumer debt. The money will be used to provide financing to investors to buy up the debt.

The bold program, dubbed the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, was first announced late last year and originally scheduled to start in February.

Participants — companies and investors that pledge eligible collateral to back the loan — must request the new government loans by March 17. The Fed will provide the three-year loans on March 25.

The Fed said the program has the potential to generate up to \$1 trillion of lending for businesses

and households.

Under the program, the Fed will buy securities backed by different types of debt including credit card, auto, student and small business loans. The credit crunch has made it much more difficult for people to obtain such financing, and those that do can be socked with high rates.

The Fed plans to keep the program running through December, but said it could be extended. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced an expansion of the Fed's program on Feb. 10, saying it also will include support for commercial mortgage-backed securities. The central bank said teams from Treasury and the Fed are now analyzing the right terms for the commercial real-estate component.

The Fed and Treasury currently anticipate that securities backed by car fleet leases as well as certain equipment will be eligible for Fed funding in its April operation.



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officers' club 243-5030

Japanese Shogun Buffet

Thursdays from 1700 to 2100

Enjoy live Japanese entertainment and experience our authentic Japanese buffet. We are talking much more than sushi. Come in and join us every Thursday night as we feature alternating stations. Here are a few stations to satisfy your curiosity: Sushi, Yakitori, Tempura, Shabu-Shabu, Udon and much, much more. Adults \$15.95, Kids (8 to 11 years) \$8.95 and Kids (4 to 7 years) \$5.95

Sunday Brunch Extravaganza

Sundays from 0900 to 1330

All authorized patrons to include E-7 thru E-9. Enjoy an all new and improved brunch while listening to soothing, live entertainment. Numerous food stations such as pasta station, waffle station, ice cream station, salad station, delicious dessert station, new hot chocolate station and yes, even kids' station. Please make reservations at 243-5030/5002. Adults \$14.95, Kids (8 to 11 years) \$7.95, Kids (4 to 7 years) \$5.95 and free for 3 years and under

Mongolian BBQ

Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100 in Kosano Dining Room

Make your own Mongolian BBQ for only 65¢ per ounce. Plus, get it free when you guess the correct weight (5¢ over or less the price) of your Mongolian bowl. Now open to all hands.

Prime Rib Buffet

Saturdays from 1700 to 2100

Try our Chef's Prime Rib Buffet. A la carte and kid's menu are also available. Adults \$17.95 and Kids (6 to 11 years) \$8.95

Social Hour

Wednesdays and Fridays from 1630 to 1830

Unwind and socialize with your friends after a long day of hard work. Free finger food. Enjoy and dance the night away with the MWR house band on Wednesdays and a professional band on Fridays.

Karaoke and Ladies' Night Out

Thursdays from 1500 to 2300

Bring your friends and enjoy the night. Sing your heart out and be the star! All ladies get free non-alcoholic beverages from 1800 to 1900

Tuesday At The Movies

Tuesdays at 1900

Enjoy some of the best-run movies even before they are released on DVD. Free admission and complimentary popcorn provided.



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Did you know that CPO Club dining events outside the Cove Bar are always open to all hands?

Lunch Buffet

Monday thru Friday from 1100 to 1330

A sumptuous all-you-can-eat lunch buffet with a large variety of items including our Asian and continental specials. \$6.95

Prime Rib Night

Tuesdays

Best on the base. Comes with a variety of buffet items. \$14.95

CPO Club Bingo

Thursdays at 1900

Open to all hands! Cards go on sale at 1800. Bingo package cost is \$15. Over \$21,000 available in prizes nightly.

Live Music with the Puzzles Band

Fridays from 2030 to 0030

Get together with friends or coworkers to relieve some week-long stress! This is the band's last month, and you don't want to miss their great performance!

Open Mic Night with the Puzzles Band

Sundays from 2030 to 0030

Grab the mic and sing with the MWR House Band on this fun evening.

neqishi all hands' club 242-4151

Sunday Brunch

Sundays from 0900 to 1400

An array of breakfast foods, lunch items, a large salad bar, assorted dessert bar, omelets to order, coffee, tea and a juice bar.

Steak Night for Two

Tuesdays Nights 1700 to 2000

Dinner for two with all the trimmings. Only \$19.95

Mongolian BBQ Night

Thursdays from 1700 to 2000

Enjoy your dinner with the House band playing from 1700 to 2100.

Mexican Platter

Fridays from 1700 to 2000

Dinner served with Spanish soup, taco salad, fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans, vegetable of the day and flour tortillas.

Prime Rib Dinner

Saturdays from 1700 to 2000

Eight ounces of pure beef rib eye served with salad, baked potato, vegetable of the day, coffee or tea.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 at the OFFICERS' CLUB



club alliance 243-3000

Dinner Specials:

Women who made history

Monday thru Friday in March from 1700 to 2100 at Italian Gardens

Fill up your stomach and mind! Choose from Carrie Chapman Catt Pasta Carbonara (Monday), Rosetta Wakeman Pork Milanese (Tuesday), Margaret Bourke-White Roasted Cajun Chicken (Wednesday), Rear Admiral Grace Hopper Hopper Kabobs (Friday). \$9.95 includes soup of the day and salad.

Pizza of the Month: BLT

Daily in March

Live Jazz Music

Saturdays from 1700 to 2100

Dine with us and enjoy professional, live entertainment every Saturday! Yokosuka Jazz Band performs March 7 and 21; Milton and Friends on the 14 and 28.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Irish Lunch

Tuesdays in March in Italian Gardens

Get your fill of this Irish dish all-month long including St. Patrick's Day! Slow cooked corned beef, boiled cabbage and potatoes served with soup of the day or garden salad. For only \$5.95

Sharky's Billiards Tournament

Sundays starting at 1900

\$50, \$40 and \$25 prizes to the top three. Sign ups are at 1900 and games begin at 2000. Minimum of eight participants needed

9-Ball Tournament

Mondays at 1900 in Panther Sports Bar on the 3rd deck

Prizes awarded to the first, second and third place winners.

Dart Tournament

Tuesdays at 1900 in Panther Sports Bar on the 3rd deck

Prizes awarded to the first, second and third place winners.

8-Ball Tournament

Wednesdays at 1900 in Panther Sports Bar on the 3rd deck

Prizes awarded to the first, second and third place winners.

Beginning and Advance Salsa Lessons

Thursdays from 1930 to 2030 and 2045 to 2145

Professional dance instructor, Andres, teaches basic steps and turns in the first class and introduces complicated series of steps while focusing on technique in the second class. Open to 18 and up, all hands and their guests. No partner needed. Pay in dollars or yen. Beginner Class \$7 / Advanced \$10 Special: Take both classes on the same night for \$12

Open Mic Night with Puzzles Band

Mondays from 1900 to 2300

Take the stage and perform with the band! Book of lyrics and song lists available. Play an instrument, rap—whatever! Free

club takemiya 246-8077

Open Mic Karaoke Night

Thursdays from 1900 to 2300

Asian Night

Mondays from 1700 to 2100

BBQ Spare Ribs

Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100

Cajun Chicken BBQ

Fridays from 1700 to 2100



A fun evening with a comedy play based on American's first experience in Japan, this show covers all rude awakenings when first arriving. We recommend purchasing tickets well in advance as this show is a hit! Doors open at 1730 / dinner served at 1800 / show begins at 1930. Tickets are \$28.95 and non-refundable after Tuesday, March 10. This show is for adults only. For more information, please call 243-5030 or 5002.

IN THE WORLD

Clinton says Palestinian state is 'inescapable'

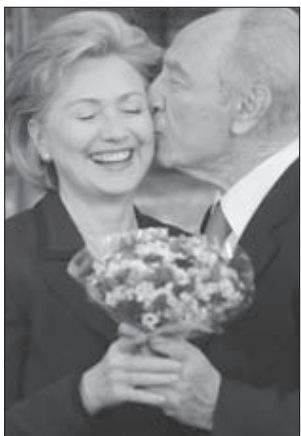
By MATTI FRIEDMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton promised Tuesday to work with the incoming Israeli government, but delivered a clear message that could put her at odds with the country's next leader: Movement toward the establishment of a Palestinian state is "inescapable."

At the same time, Clinton said she would not dictate orders to Israel, saying the Jewish state would determine its interests. She also pledged "unrelenting" support for Israel's security.

Clinton also said the U.S. soon would send two envoys to Syria for "preliminary conversations." It was the most significant sign yet that the Obama administration is ready to mend relations with the Damascus regime. The U.S. withdrew its ambassador in 2005, accusing Syria of supporting terrorism.

"We have no way to predict what the future with our relations concerning Syria might be," she said. "There has to be some perceived benefit of doing so for the United States and our allies and our shared values. But I think it is a worthwhile effort to go and begin these preliminary



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Israeli President Shimon Peres kisses Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

conversations."

Clinton lamented that President Barack Obama's attempts to reach out to Syrian ally Iran have so far been unsuccessful. The U.S. and Israel accuse Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons and supporting anti-Israel militant groups.

Clinton, seeking to calm her Israeli hosts, said diplomacy should not be confused with softness.

"When we talk about engagement with Iran, do not be in any way confused, our goal remains the same: to dissuade and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and continuing to fund terrorism," she said. "Whatever we do will be done thoughtfully in consultation with our friends and Israel, most particularly Israel."

Clinton, making her first visit to the region as secretary of state, spoke ahead of a meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister designate. Netanyahu's past criticism of peace talks and opposition to full Palestinian independence has raised concerns that his incoming government could clash with the U.S.

When asked about Netanyahu, she acknowledged the possibility of disagreements with any Israeli government and made clear the U.S. will push forward with its efforts to forge a peace deal that includes the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"The United States will be vigorously engaged in the pursuit of a two-state solution every step of the way," she said. "The inevitability of working toward a two state-solution is inescapable."



K.M. CHAUDARY/AP

A Sri Lankan player boards a helicopter at Gaddafi stadium after a shooting incident in Lahore, Pakistan, on Tuesday.

Gunmen attack Sri Lanka cricket team in Pakistan

By RIZWAN ALI
The Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — At least a dozen men ambushed Sri Lanka's cricket team with rifles, grenades and rocket launchers Tuesday, converging on the squad's convoy as it drove through a traffic circle near an eastern Pakistani stadium.

Seven players, an umpire and a coach were wounded, none with life-threatening injuries, but six policemen and a driver died.

The attackers struck as a convoy carrying the squad and match officials reached a traffic circle 300 yards from the main sports stadium in the eastern city of Lahore, triggering a 15-minute gunbattle with police guarding the vehicles.

The assault, just ahead of a

match, was one of the worst terrorist attacks on a sports team since Palestinian militants killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Tuesday's attackers melted away into the city, and none was killed or captured, city police chief Haji Habibur Rehman said. The attackers abandoned machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and backpacks, Punjab police chief Khwaja Khalid Farooq said. They carried backpacks as well as dried fruit, mineral water and walkie-talkies — provisions also abandoned at or near the scene.

Authorities did not speculate on the identities of the attackers or their motives, but the chief suspects will be Islamist militants, some with links to al-Qaida.

U.N. chief presses U.S. for stronger presence

SHARME EL-SHEIK, Egypt — At his first meeting with the top diplomat for the new U.S. administration, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon pressed for more money and stronger American leadership on climate change, the Middle East, chaos in Somalia and justice in Darfur.

Ban said in a wide-ranging interview this week with The Associated Press that he was encouraged by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's response to his request for more cash for peacekeepers and other badly stretched U.N. priorities.

They spoke on the sidelines of an international conference in Egypt on Monday that raised \$5.2 billion in pledges for rebuilding Gaza, at the conclusion of the U.N. secretary-general's nine-day, six-nation African tour.

The thawing relations between the United Nations and President Barack Obama's month-old administration represents a remarkable turnaround from just three years ago when the Bush administration's U.N. ambassador exposed U.N. corruption and failures but furthered U.S. isolation.

Ban sought a more fruitful, less antagonistic relationship with the world body's single biggest backer, which provides roughly a quarter of the U.N.'s \$4 billion operating budget.

"I told her that we highly value a stronger partnership between the U.S. and the U.N.," he said. "Policywise, we will fully cooperate, but at the same time we expect [more] U.S. support for the United Nations politically and financially."

— The Associated Press

Some feared trapped in German building collapse

COLOGNE, Germany — A building in Cologne that once housed the city archives has collapsed and officials fear people could be trapped inside, authorities said Tuesday.

Fire department spokesman Daniel Leupold said rescue officials found several lightly injured people at the scene, and it was likely that there were some people inside.

The building collapsed onto a street under which work was being carried out on a subway line, Leupold said. The cause of the collapse was unclear.

Iran official says U.S. journalist is in prison

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's judiciary spokesman says a U.S. journalist detained about a month ago is being held in a prison north of the capital Tehran.

Ali Reza Jamshidi says Roxana Saberi, 31, is being held in Evin prison on a court order. He refused to provide further details in Tuesday's press conference.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hasan Qashqavi said Monday that Saberi was engaged in "illegal" activities because she continued working in Iran after the government revoked her press credentials in 2006.

Arsonists burn Athens subway train cars

ATHENS, Greece — Masked arsonists forced passengers off an Athens subway train and then set it alight, police said Tuesday. Several train carriages were destroyed; nobody was injured.

The attack occurred at a subway station that is above ground in the northern suburb of Kifissia shortly after 1 a.m.

Police said a group of people wearing carnival masks forced the handful of passengers on one train to leave, and then doused the carriages with gasoline before using Molotov cocktails to set them alight.

Algeria radio says 16 militants killed in raid

ALGIERS, Algeria — Algeria's state radio says the military has killed 16 militants linked to al-Qaida in a weekend raid on their secret base near Algiers.

Interior Minister Yazid Zerhouni has raised the death toll from the seven previously announced, reports say.

Officials said the raid starting late Friday about 50 miles south of Algiers was launched with information from a terror support cell dismantled a week earlier.

The government has said the military killed 120 al-Qaida militants over the last six months.

From The Associated Press

50 finalists vie for 'Best Job in the World'

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — From a Canadian who staged a musical on a snowy city street to an Australian who showed off his best asset in a thong, 50 lucky people are now on a short list to become caretaker of an Australian island — dubbed the "Best Job in the World."

Officials with the tourism department of Australia's Queensland state on Tuesday revealed the 50 finalists from a pool of nearly 35,000 applicants for the job — a 150,000 Australian dollar (\$96,000) contract to relax on Hamilton Island in the Great

Barrier Reef for six months while writing a blog to promote the area.

The finalists hail from 22 countries, including the U.S., Germany, Greece and India. Applicants include an actor, a chef and a scientist.

The public can view their video applications on the job ad's Web site and vote for a favorite.

The top vote-getter and 10 other people chosen by the tourism board will be flown to Hamilton Island for interviews. The winner will be announced May 6, and the job begins July 1.

In one video, a man from Ontario, Canada, performs an original musical on a city street, with around two dozen of his friends serving as his chorus.

In another, a man from Queensland is seen scuba diving and riding a horse along a beach. He ends his video with the line, "You'd be out of your mind not to give the job to an Aussie bum" — and with that, walks away from the camera — in a thong.

The public has until March 24 to vote for their favorite applicant, chosen from 34,684 entries.

FACES



Warner Bros. Pictures

COMEBACK

Jackie Earle Haley returns to the big screen in 'Watchmen'

“Watchmen” may be the most eagerly awaited movie of 2009 — the film of the Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons graphic novel has been the object of breathless Internet anticipation for years.

But before the hype for the movie, opening Friday in the States and in base theaters starting March 13, reached its fever pitch, there was that first day, that first moment, with actors, in odd costumes about to perform in a comic-book movie.

“Patrick Wilson and I were on the set, in full garb. He’s Nite Owl, in a cape and goggles, and I’m Rorschach, in a mask,” Jackie Earle Haley recalls. “We kinda look at each other and just start laughing, thinking that there’s no WAY that two years ago we could have guessed we’d be standing there, dressed like this in a comic-book movie.”

Two years ago, Haley, 47, was “the comeback kid.” He and Wilson were co-stars in the acclaimed drama “Little Children.” Haley gave an Oscar-nominated performance as a child molester who likes to put on his swim gear and leer at children in a pool.

“Two years ago, I was the guy in the goggles!”

With “Watchmen,” Haley’s comeback can be called

complete. Internet fans pushed for his selection as Rorschach, and one of them, Clint Morris of Moviehole.net, calls him “a standout as the sociopath of the hero troupe.” As “Walter Kovacs (aka Rorschach) ... Haley is the best thing in ‘Watchmen.’”

“Internet fans of the books got me to start looking into it,” Haley recalls. “The more I looked into it the more excited I got. I fell in love with the book and the character; such an intricate, complex and iconic character. I talked to my agents and asking them to look into it. The problem was, it kind of looked like they were going down the ‘movie star’ road. That ruled me out. At one point, my agent said, ‘Dude, get over it. It’s gone.’ And then a month later he calls and says ‘It looks like things are shifting a bit over there. Why don’t you do an audition tape and send it to (director) Zack (Snyder) and those guys?’”

Haley landed the part, the one member of a group of retired “costumed vigilantes” who suspects that somebody is murdering the members of their elite club and hunts for clues about the crimes. But Rorschach, hidden behind an ever-changing mask, is a brutal, deeply disturbed and ruthless man not above using torture and risking “collateral damage” in his search for a villain.

“This guy’s definitely a bit further out there than most of the characters I’ve played. Damaged? He’s really damaged. But his absolute black-and-white sense of justice is what I love about him.”

For him to even survive in this world, he had to embrace that absolutism, no compromising. When you start looking at his childhood, how his mother was a prostitute, raging alcoholic, how he was victimized, the beatings, you can see how he’d invent this world for himself, this identity. He fell through society’s cracks and needed a black-and-white world, a simpler view of things — good, evil, life, death.”

The trickiest thing about playing the character was getting across Rorschach’s personality and giving a performance behind a mask. It’s one of the tougher things acting students learn to do — “mask class.”

“Dude, I missed those classes!” Haley chortles. “That would’ve helped! I mean, come on. It was daunting. You think, ‘I’ve gotten another incredible break, a part in this awesome flick.’ And then you think, ‘My God, I’ve got a SOCK on my head for the whole movie!’”

“A face is an actor’s main way of getting across feeling and meaning, our main point of conveyance. To cover that up, to not have that, is just plain scary. But on the other hand, to don the Rorschach outfit is incredibly liberating and motivating. I had to embrace it and do the work, the internal work of an actor, and hope that the externals take care of themselves. I admit I did sneak a peak at the monitor to see how a take registered, see if I needed to do more or less. Sometimes, what I was doing just wouldn’t read, so I’d have to animate the outfit a little bit, play it a bit bigger.”

It’s another big break for a former child actor who lived through decades in the movie wilderness, substance-abuse problems and multiple marriages, only to re-emerge in “All the King’s Men” and “Little Children” in 2007. One thing the onetime “Bad News Bears” star learned from the experience is to pay attention to the Internet, where the fanboys and fangirls have embraced him as one of their own.

— Roger Moore
/The Orlando Sentinel

AP

Jackie Earle Haley, right, is Rorschach, in the movie “Watchmen.” The film is set in an alternate 1985 America, where costumed superheroes are part of the fabric of everyday society.

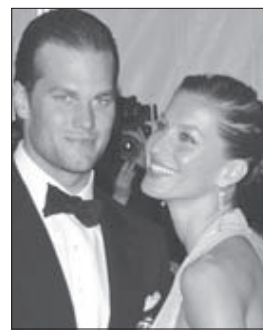


QB, model hitched

Brazilian goddess Gisele Bundchen, 28, on Thursday married all-American beauty Tom Brady, 31, in a small wedding at St. Monica Catholic Church near the beach in Santa Monica, Calif.

Usmagazine.com says the bride, who was outfitted in “a form-fitting ivory lace strapless gown with a trumpet skirt, scalloped edges, long train, and a floor-length veil,” all by Dolce & Gabbana, was flanked by her three dogs, which sported matching Dolce & Gabbana floral lace collars.

For his part, the New England Patriots quarterback was accessorized by John Edward Thomas Moynahan, his 1-year-old son with former girlfriend Bridget Moynahan.



AP file

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen were married in a private ceremony on Thursday at a Catholic church in Santa Monica, Calif., according to reports.

porn king’s offer to walk her down the aisle at her June wedding to Eagles wide receiver Hank Baskett, 26. The pro media personality says she’d rather ask her brother.

Wilkinson: I’ll be your baby’s mama

The story of former Hugh

Hefner consort Kendra Wilkinson, 23, just gets more and more heart-warming and G-rated.



Wilkinson

Wilkinson, who was 19 when she first met Hugh at his 78th birthday party in ’04, has turned down the

Wilkinson, who has a new reality show called “Kendra,” says she and Hank have big plans: “We always talk about [having kids],” she tells People. “He wants kids so [badly], and I do, too.” This is no childish whim: Baby names have been discussed. “My first initial is K and my middle name is Leigh, so we were thinking of Kayleigh” for a girl, Wilkinson says. She says Hank Baskett IV will do nicely for a boy.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

Was ‘Survivor’ reject poisoned by enemies?

The way to get a man kicked off “Survivor” is through his stomach.

That’s what U.S. Army Sgt. Jerry Sims discovered after being voted off the most recent “Survivor: Tocantins” because of a stomach bug.

Sims admitted he is “disappointed” that his tummy kept him from winning the game, and suspects there may have been foul play involved.

“I have no idea what caused the stomach problems. We were all eating and drinking the same thing,” Sims said. “I don’t think I was poisoned, but if I was, it was probably one of the females that did it. I had a pact with the guys so it would most likely be one of the women.”

After leaving the Brazilian highlands, Sims chose to forgo chicken soup for his indigestion and instead cracked open a can of Coca-Cola.

“My grandparents always said that if your stomach hurts, drink a Coke,” Sims said.

“Survivor” airs on Fridays on AFN-Prime.

— Wireless Flash



Sims

WIRED WORLD

Voicemail made painless

A Even if you record the most pleasant voicemail greeting for callers, they'll still be pestered by your carrier's automated prompts — the superfluous nonsense along the lines of "press 1 to leave a message now, press 2 to page this person." Callers can skip that by pressing the right buttons on their own phones, so add a line to your greeting reminding them which button to hit: 0 if you use AT&T, 1 for Sprint, (star) for Verizon Wireless and (pound sign) for T-Mobile. Some carriers also let you edit out the parts of the system greeting inviting callers to page you or leave a callback number, though this option may not be available on all of their phones. For example, if you use AT&T, try dialing your voicemail, entering your password, and hitting 4, 2 and 7 in succession; if you use Sprint, dial your voicemail, enter your password and hit 3, 1 and then 6.

Watch out for iTunes with DRM

A Some songs sold on the iTunes Store are better than others — not in terms of artistic merit, but compatibility. Regular iTunes downloads come with "digital rights management" locks that non-Apple software and non-iPod players can't handle. But iTunes Plus downloads — indicated with a plus icon — work in other programs and players but cost no more. They also offer better sound quality. When a record label stops requiring DRM on iTunes, you can (and should) convert songs you've bought from that label to iTunes Plus format for 30 cents each — but if you refrain from buying a label's work until it ditched DRM, you'll never have to pay that trade-up fee.

— The Washington Post

Tech Tips

Are our brains becoming Googlized?

Web may affect men and women differently

By DELPHINE SCHRANK
The Washington Post

Say you're halfway through a turkey sub when you have a sudden urge to Wikipedia the word "crush," because your nephew was bashfully asking what it meant, which reminded you of when you, too, were 13 and tripped on a chair on your way to the blackboard right in front of the girl with the pigtails, whom you suddenly feel like searching for on Facebook — after all these years — so you log on to your homepage, which is blitzed with photos from Nick's mushing trip in Alaska, including one with a comment about you that just landed in your inbox, where you have five urgent messages from Bob about a football blog that you click to and really mean to finish reading, but only after you're done smacking the ball on that pop-up Orbitz ad, the one with the baseball bat, once, twice, six times and ...

Why did you leave your sandwich for the computer again?

Is this your brain, the male brain that is, on Google?

The jury is still out on whether all this online activity is rewiring the circuitry of our brains. But as scientists and sociologists begin to probe the Internet's impact, some wonder if it is reinforcing sex differences or doing exactly the reverse, leading us instead toward a brave new wired world of gender neutrality.

A 2005 survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that men typically were quicker to use the Internet as a tool for online transactions, for experiences such as video games, or to find content. Women tended to use the Internet to join online communities and were more prolific in their use of e-mail.

According to Susan Pinker, a psychologist at Mc-

Gill University and author of "The Sexual Paradox," male and female behavior on the Internet basically mirrors their differences in other parts of life.

Gordon Hotchkiss, founder of an online research firm, has been studying the way men and women interact with the Internet since 2003. Eye-tracking studies largely confirm the Pew data, he said.

But Hotchkiss ultimately believes there is an equalizing effect to Internet browsing. He stressed that across all his studies, men and women used different visual processes but eventually ended up in the same place, on the page or scanning the same material.

Another proponent of the gender-neutralizing hypothesis is Gary Small, a psychiatrist from the University of California at Los Angeles. However one uses it, Small said, the Internet requires all users to sharpen both their visual-spatial skills and verbal skills.

New technologies have historically been accompanied with a host of fears about their dumbing effects. According to Small, the more one uses it, the more Google seems to activate different parts of the brain. It could be, he said, that it is in fact making us smarter.

The knowledge that the Internet provides may be fragmented, unlike the "readily bundled" information of a book, said Rand Spiro, a professor of educational psychology at Michigan State University, but it allows informed users to be the author of their own searches. Spiro argued the nonlinear approach to information-gathering on the Internet can help a person learn to navigate the world better.

But even Small would acknowledge that the well-tuned mind can easily lapse into that strange state best called Googlized.

Last month, Small's wife asked him to check something online, and next thing he knew he was browsing for bits of trivia. He emerged several sites and minutes later, having entirely forgotten whatever it was that his wife had asked him. He can't remember the trivia, either.

"It's frankly embarrassing for a memory expert," he said, laughing. "But I do remember the process."



ILLUSTRATION BY
NOGA AMI-RAV
Stars and Stripes



Microsoft explores educational link to video games

The Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — Microsoft Corp. is studying the reactions of avid gamers to see whether video gaming can promote learning skills that carry over to the classroom.

"We want to figure out what's compelling about the games," said John Nordlinger, head of gaming research for Microsoft. "If we can find out how to make the games fun and not make them so violent, that would be ideal."

Microsoft has put up \$1.5 million to start The Games for Learning Institute, a joint venture with New York University and other colleges. The goal of the research is to see whether video games can draw students into math, science and technology-based programs. The institute has begun lining up middle school students to study.

Microsoft chief researcher Craig Mundie said during a visit to the company's Fargo campus that games could stimulate educational abilities by helping people develop "a higher-order cognitive

capability."

Many shooter games force players to track "how many bullets and bombs and missiles do I have, and how do I spend and where do I go get more of them," Mundie said.

The idea that there is broader educational value in such activities is sure to find skeptics.

Vince Repesh, a counselor at the University of Minnesota at Duluth, said he fears that gaming is replacing education, not adding to it.



ALJAZ RAHI/AP

Microsoft Corporation Chief Research and Strategy Officer Craig Mundie said games could stimulate a child's educational abilities.

Learn more from STARS AND STRIPES.

shifting gears

EVERY FRIDAY

Wheel through the weekly vehicle review and get yourself up to speed on all topics automotive. Reading—it's the next best thing to driving.



YOUR MONEY

States' budget woes will outlast recession

By MICHAEL HILL
The Associated Press

Even after \$135 billion in federal aid gets spent, many states will be staring down budgetary black holes unless they initiate dramatic spending cuts or tax increases, or both.

In the short-term, the massive stimulus will help balance budgets and keep key services, such as Medicaid, going. But economists agree the money will not quickly eradicate high unemployment, low consumer spending or distress in the housing market — the triple threats behind a nationwide tax-collection shortfall that is expected to drag on even after the economy begins to rebound.

Without higher taxes, bigger cuts to government services — or yet more federal funding — states face budget gaps that could reach \$120 billion nationwide in their 2011 budgets, according to an analyst at the Rockefeller Institute, a think tank in Albany, N.Y. James Diffley, managing director of Global Insight's U.S. Regional Services Group, says it's unlikely budget gaps will close before 2013.

"States' budget problems lag the economy," Diffley said. "What we see in budgets will get worse for at least another year."

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke last week told Congress that the recession might end this year if the government is



GARY KAZANJIAN/AP

Tanya Duarte and her husband, Fernando, look over mounting bills in Fresno, Calif. Due to the recession, the Duartes, like many families throughout the country, worried about losing their home to foreclosure.

able to prop up the shaky banking system.

States simply are not taking in enough money to cover expenses that are rising with the recession. So far, neither the spending cuts nor the tax and fee increases being discussed appear large enough to address the impending revenue shortfall, economists said.

Spending increases were easier

to cover in flush times earlier this decade, when tax collections jumped 40 percent over five years. Then the bubble burst. Inflated housing wealth collapsed, consumers hunkered down, businesses slashed jobs and tax collections plunged.

Sales and income taxes can provide around two-thirds of tax revenue. Other revenue streams, like the real estate fund transfer

tax, continue to take hits, too, as the housing market scrapes bottom.

States' combined deficits have already climbed to around \$50 billion in their 2009 budgets and are expected to grow in the following budget cycle, leaving governors and lawmakers with more painful choices over the likes of education cuts and layoffs.

"They're going to have to cut their budgets significantly," said Mark Vitner, senior economist and managing director at Wachovia.

Exhibit A for state budget

messes is California, where lawmakers struggled to reach a deal to raise taxes, borrow money and cut services to close a multiyear \$42 billion deficit. The state was hit as hard as any by the housing collapse, and residents like Tanya Duarte in Fresno illustrate the challenge California and other states face to turn things around.

When the housing bubble burst, work dried up for Duarte's husband, a house painter, and they could not afford the \$2,215-a-month mortgage payment on their home. They have since struck a deal with the bank to avoid foreclosure, but have had to cut back on everything to piano lessons for their 13-year-old son to cable TV.

"We're just doing the best we can," she said, "we're hanging in there."

Duarte was fortunate enough to avoid foreclosure in a state plagued with them. And her husband now has a job, but roughly 1.7 million Californians don't — showing how deep and interconnected the revenue problems are for states.

These states could get a rude awakening after tax returns are filed in April. The financial crisis became significantly worse late last year, and experts say it's likely that many quarterly filers overestimated their capital gains and other investment income. That could sharply drive down states' collections in the final quarter.

"It's probably going to be bad in April," said Donald Boyd, senior fellow at The Rockefeller Institute. "And it's probably going to be bad a year from April."

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	Low	Name	Last	Net	%	YTD	52-wk
High				Chg	Chg	%	Chg
13,136.69	7,033.62	Dow Jones Industrials	6,763.29	-299.64	-4.24	-22.94	-44.83
5,536.57	2,457.06	Dow Jones Transportation	2,332.88	-166.19	-6.65	-34.05	-49.13
530.57	294.30	Dow Jones Utilities	312.51	-11.46	-3.54	-15.71	-35.27
9,687.24	4,596.90	NYSE Composite	4,360.98	-256.05	-5.55	-24.25	-51.38
2,433.31	1,120.47	Amex Index	1,260.75	-71.67	-5.38	-9.79	-45.71
2,551.47	1,295.48	Nasdaq Composite	1,322.85	-54.99	-3.99	-16.12	-41.43
1,440.24	734.52	S&P 500	700.82	-34.27	-4.66	-22.41	-47.36
897.37	406.45	S&P MidCap	422.07	-27.37	-6.09	-21.59	-46.56
764.38	371.30	Russell 2000	367.80	-21.22	-5.45	-26.36	-46.25
14,564.81	7,340.74	DJ Wilshire 5000	7,113.85	-360.12	-4.82	-21.72	-47.11

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Citigrp	10329486	1.20	-30
BkofAm	4231284	3.63	-32
SPDR	3930199	70.60	-3.33
GenElec	2918846	7.60	-91
SPDR Fnd	1833285	7.12	-48
WellsFarg	1593939	10.84	-1.26
DirFinBul	1576965	3.97	-93
ProUnfSP	1282031	15.75	-1.56
ProUnfIF	1261570	1.95	-24
Pfizer	1030961	11.66	-65

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
PSCrudeDL	342623	1.99	-36
BarcGSOL	35740	15.75	-1.73
GoldStir g	31761	1.34	-21
GriBasg g	30125	1.11	-27
EldorId g	29788	7.79	-46
NovadId g	21302	2.54	-32
NthgId g	21252	1.11	-11
GrGda g	18685	11.51	-26
MediaEnt	15343	1.80	-04
AbdAsPac	14496	3.85	-36

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
PwShs QQQ	1725470	26.64	-89
Microsoft	782057	15.79	-36
Intel	629149	12.31	-43
Cisco	589414	14.32	-25
Oracle	465093	15.20	-34
Dell Inc	384589	8.43	-10
Comcast	289960	12.59	-47
AdpMed	277488	8.05	-36
Apple Inc	263929	97.94	-137
FifthThird	249353	1.77	-34

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Japanese yen (March 4)	95.00
South Korean won (March 4)	1,524.00
Euro costs (March 4)	\$1.2917
Dollar buys (March 4)	€0.7742
British pound (March 4)	\$1.44

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	3.770
British pound	\$1.4045
Canada (Dollar)	1.2910
China (Yuan)	6.8460
Denmark (Krone)	5.9207
Egypt (Pound)	5.6283
Euro	\$1.2590/7943
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7582
Hungary (Forint)	244.32
Israel (Shekel)	4.2195
Japan (Yen)	98.34
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.951
Norway (Krone)	7.1587
Philippines (Peso)	48.74
Poland (Zloty)	3.77
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5489
South Korea (Won)	1,547.60
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1758
Thailand (Baht)	36.08
Turkey (New Lira)	1.7283

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close

Gold	\$969.10
Silver	\$13.993

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.27
30-year bond	3.62

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technosystem	...	9	67.38	-3.28	-21.4
Boeing	1.68	8	29.51	-1.93	-30.8
Computer Sciences	...	6	34.19	-5.5	-2.7
General Dynamics	1.40	7	41.05	-2.77	-28.7
General Electric	4.40	4	7.60	-91	-53.1
Halliburton	3.6	9	14.78	-1.53	-18.7
Hehr Corp.	80	15	33.37	-3.91	-12.3
Allied Signal	1.21	7	24.96	-1.87	-24.0
L-3 Communications	1.40	9	63.56	-4.09	-13.9
Lockheed Martin	2.28	8	59.96	-3.15	-28.7
Northrop	1.60	...	35.45	-1.91	-21.3
Raytheon	1.12	10	37.71	-2.26	-26.1
Rockwell Int'l.	1.16	5	18.74	-1.36	-41.9
Texas Instruments	4.4	10	13.77	-58	-11.3
Truon Inc.	0.8	2	4.43	-1.22	-68.1
United Technologies	1.54	8	39.17	-1.66	-26.9

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	44.42	-73	-9.3
Fidelity Spartan: EdgdxInv	26.73	-42	-16.2
Fidelity Invest: USBI	10.64	-01	-7
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	10.79	-16	-18.1
Fidelity Invest: AMgr50	10.16	-06	-6.3
Fidelity Invest: Oversea	20.37	-16	-18.8
Putnam Funds A: GrnA p	12.86	-23	-11.0
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	7.69	-08	-18.1
AIM Investments A: Const p	10.04	-17	-13.5
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	14.99	-36	-11.0
DWS Invest S: GroIncS	18.38	-37	-9.4
Fidelity Advisor T: EdgIT	9.50	-17	-13.4
Fidelity Advisor T: GroppT	13.50	-06	-20.4
Fidelity Invest: GroFds	17.42	-24	-8.5
Putnam Funds A: GrnA p	28.10	+11	-18.9
Lord Abbett A: DevGTA p	5.24	-05	-17.7
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseAT	9.63	-16	-9.2
DWS Invest S: CorpInc	10.82	-05	-19.4
	9.48	-01	-1.7

Cargo traffic dries up

By RONALD D. WHITE

Los Angeles Times

The international trade business is foundering faster than ever seen before, with some U.S. seaports watching cargo traffic fall by more than a third.

It's gotten so bad that Los Angeles and neighboring Long Beach are slashing cargo rates to keep old customers and lure new business. Oakland, Calif.'s port has laid off 12 percent of its staff and canceled free tours for the public. The number of ships idled around the world is approaching three times the number that were out of work during the last big ocean trade collapse, in 2002.

There's a huge ripple effect at the docks and roughly 10,000 acres of maritime facilities at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the nation's busiest. The port complex is a trade gateway that employs more than 280,000 workers and annually handles \$357 billion in goods. The effect is being felt in the loss of high-wage jobs and in spiraling real estate vacancies in inland ware-

house and distribution districts, experts said.

As severe as the shift has been in Los Angeles and Long Beach, where February imports fell 18.1 percent compared with the same month in 2008, it's worse in other places, according to the monthly cargo figures collected by IHS Global Insight.

Oakland is expected to be down 22 percent in February, compared with a year earlier, as U.S. consumers continue to rein in spending and as retailers cut factory orders to avoid building inventories that won't sell.

The February downturn is expected to be 29 percent in Tacoma, Wash., and 39 percent in Seattle when those ports finish tallying container movements.

Unlike the West Coast ports, which deal almost exclusively in trade to and from Asia, East Coast ports have a more diversified mix of trade with Asia, Europe and Latin and South America. Still, February trade is down at East and Gulf Coast ports ranging from 6.8 percent at New York/New Jersey to 29.5 percent at Charleston, S.C.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Report from Mosul shed light

I want to express my appreciation for the coverage (and courage) by Stars and Stripes reporter Heath Druzin in reporting the news in the Mideast. The Feb. 28 article "Unfriendly fire: Shooting of 4 U.S. troops highlights trust issues between two forces" was very disconcerting for me. I am gravely concerned for the safety of our troops in the Mosul area. It is apparent there is insurgent infiltration in the Iraqi army.

I am concerned that the attention/troops/money will be focused on Afghanistan and the Mosul area will not receive the badly needed intelligence and elite forces to fulfill the mission. To succeed in Iraq, we know we have to succeed in Mosul.

Suzan Thornberg
Plano, Texas

Demonizing some weapons?

As a law-abiding gun owner, I read with more than a passing interest "U.S. must combat cross-border gun trade, Mexican officials say" (article, March 2).

What I found most interesting, causing me to go to the travel advisory on the Department of State [Web site], is the comment on a report about "Weapons bought or stolen" in the U.S. and then used in Mexico against the authorities there.

The travel advisory I read, with a header stating "Current As Of Mar 1, 2009," said that grenades and automatic weapons were being used in these shootouts with authorities.

Now I don't know which gun shows, private purchases, gun stores or even the big-box sporting goods stores these thugs

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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gun rights in the U.S. I know we would be. Just a thought.

Gary Waggoner
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Coulter's in seventh grade

I understand the purpose of a newspaper's opinion page is to stimulate thoughtful discussion and healthy debate, so I have to wonder about the regular inclusion of Ann Coulter's columns in Stars and Stripes.

If the point is to elevate the level of discourse, then why denigrate your newspaper with her commentary? In her March 2 column, Coulter managed to insult, oh let's see now, President Barack Obama, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (a Republican, by the way), Cal Ripken Jr., everyone who works at the U.S. Department of Education and American public schoolteachers as a whole ("Obama's education agenda gets an F").

It's one thing to disagree with someone's policy, or even to call someone's policy foolish. It's quite another to call Pelosi "mentally retarded" and to state that American public schoolteachers are lazy and that plenty of them "spend long hours after school having sex with their students."

This isn't raising the level of discourse; it's lowering it to the level of seventh-grader playground put-downs. With so many other, more thoughtful, conservative commentators available, I wonder why Stripes uses Coulter's column so regularly. By allowing Coulter to spew her venom all over your pages, I wonder whose agenda you are serving, the public's or Coulter's.

Luis M. Luque
Camp Victory, Iraq

Saving AIG: A low-down dirty shame

Washington Post editorial

The cost to taxpayers of rescuing American International Group (AIG) keeps going up. In September, the insurance giant faced a sudden demand for collateral to back guarantees it had given on troubled mortgage-backed securities. Alarmed that AIG's liquidity crunch could turn into bankruptcy — which could, in turn, lead to the meltdown of banks around the world — the Federal Reserve supplied it an \$85 billion line of credit. The terms were tough: a two-year deal at a stiff interest rate, in return for which the U.S. government got 79.9 percent of the company and installed new management. The idea was that AIG would sell its assets to repay the government, at which point Uncle Sam would cheerfully retreat from the insurance business.

It hasn't worked out that way. Instead, the global economy plunged more dramatically than anticipated. Though AIG's core insurance business is strong and might have attracted interest under more normal cir-

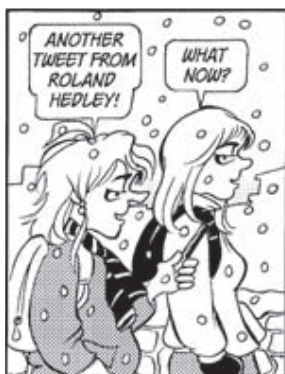
cumstances, the company has been unable to find buyers at prices sufficient to repay the government. Its losses have mounted, and, with them, the need for more government aid; the bailout rose to approximately \$150 billion by the end of 2008. And Monday, as AIG announced a \$61.7 billion loss in the fourth quarter of 2008 — the largest in U.S. corporate history — the government gave it access to an additional \$30 billion. The terms of the deal are the most generous yet and convert the U.S. government from a short-term creditor of AIG's into a longer-term equity investor. Over time, as economic conditions improve, AIG may finally be able to sell itself off and repay the taxpayers. We shall see.

There are some lessons here. The first, of course, is that AIG never should have been allowed to endanger the global economy in the first place. Appended to the firm's insurance business was an unregulated "financial practices" shop that exploited AIG's triple-A bond rating to sell derivative contracts supposedly protecting counterparties against remote economic

meltdown scenarios. AIG set aside no reserves against these risks, so that, when they materialized, those who had bought the company's baloney suddenly found themselves at risk of failure. And AIG's customers included pension funds and big banks across the United States and Europe: The U.S. bailout of AIG is a bailout of the global financial system more generally. This is why U.S. officials believe that it's a necessary evil, even as the costs rise.

The second lesson relates to the plight of U.S. banks, at least one of which, Citigroup, resembles AIG in its global reach. No one should be under any illusions that the process of bailing out these institutions will be quick or straightforward. More likely, we're looking at years of government involvement. It has become distressingly easy to design scenarios under which it becomes necessary for the government to get more deeply into the ownership and control of banks than it already has — up to and including nationalization. The hard part will be getting out again.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

U.S., Pakistan must remedy 'trust deficit'

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

In mid-February, America's No. 1 military man, Mike Mullen, wrote an op-ed piece in the Washington Post about an unlikely subject: trust.

Adm. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, was musing about the role of trust in defeating the Islamist insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He talked especially about the need to overcome "our trust deficit with Pakistan."

Figuring out how to overcome this trust deficit — which runs both ways — is the key to resolving the most dangerous security threat we face. I refer, of course, to the danger posed by Islamist militants who are destabilizing the government and society of Pakistan, a country with nukes.

As for the trust deficit, it revolves around the way Pakistan is — or isn't — fighting those militants.

Many in the U.S. military say they believe their Pakistani counterparts are too slow to grasp that the existential danger to their country is internal extremists, not India. Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has sent troops to fight al-Qaida and Taliban sanctuaries in tribal areas. But U.S. officials suspect that elements of the Pakistani army and Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) see some militant groups as a hedge they can use against India in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

And U.S. officials worry that the training Pakistan's military needs to fight insurgents is different from the training required to fight a ground war against India. Pakistan's top brass, on the other hand, resists any doctrinal shift.

One indication of the trust gap was apparent when President Barack Obama's special envoy to the region, Richard Holbrooke, was asked recently on the "News-Hour With Jim Lehrer" whether Pakistan's security forces were committed to rooting out terrorists. He replied bluntly: "I've rarely seen in my years in Washington an

issue which is so hotly disputed internally by experts and intelligence officials."

Yet the Obama administration knows that the U.S.-Pakistani relationship is too important to let the trust gap widen. So there have been some interesting recent developments aimed at narrowing the divide.

Mullen makes clear that he recognizes that Pakistani military officers also have grounds for mistrusting Americans. The cutoff of U.S. military aid in 1990 led to a whole generation of Pakistani military officers who have had no contact with Americans, and who suspect American motives.

To counter those suspicions, Mullen has made numerous visits to Pakistan to confer with top military officials, as has Gen. David Petraeus, now head of U.S. Central Command. Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and the head of the ISI, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shuja Pasha, conferred with U.S. officials in Washington for three days last week.

Similarly, Holbrooke invited the defense and foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan to Washington to give them input into Obama's strategic review of the "Af-pak" issue. (Such meetings now will be held regularly.)

Each side had plenty of complaints last week. U.S. officials are nervous about a Pakistani deal with "moderate" Islamists to allow Sharia law in the valley of Swat; they see the deal as a sign of the Pakistani army's inability to curb hard-line insurgents.

The Pakistanis are nervous about U.S. Predator drone strikes against al-Qaida and Taliban targets, which cause collateral damage and adversely affect public opinion. And they complain that the United States isn't providing the equipment they need. Last week they asked for Cobra helicopters, night-vision equipment, and jamming equipment to block the radio broadcasts of the Taliban commander in Swat. They would also like small surveillance drones.



Yet there are some promising signs that, slowly, change is under way.

For one thing, the Pakistani army has agreed to accept more U.S. trainers (even while insisting that its troops have adequate skills). So far, it has fought militants in tribal areas with tactics better suited to a land war with India, flattening villages and causing tides of refugees that may provide future recruits for the Taliban. (Pakistan has asked for \$15 million in U.S. aid for displaced people, but officials complain that the aid hasn't come.)

Now, however, 70 U.S. military advisers are working in Pakistan to train Pakistani army and paramilitary forces to fight insurgents. Pakistan wants to double the number of U.S. advisers. And it may also send more officers to the United States for special training in order to avoid controversy at home. Those Pakistanis can in turn train others.

"Pakistani officers will increasingly be invited to attend our war colleges," Mullen wrote. "And I am hopeful that more U.S. aid and technical assistance may flow to

the border regions." More U.S. economic aid for civilian projects is also on the way.

And there are signs at the top that Pakistani security officials understand the need for change. "We may be crazy in Pakistan," ISI chief Pasha told the German magazine Der Spiegel in January, "but we are not completely out of our minds. We know full well that terror is our enemy, not India." And Pakistan has finally admitted that several of the militants who attacked Mumbai came from Pakistan (though it denied there was any government involvement).

However, when pressed by Der Spiegel, Pasha defended Pakistan's unwillingness so far to arrest Taliban leader Mullah Omar, believed to be living in the Pakistani city of Quetta. That kind of equivocation raises suspicion of double-dealing.

And yet, as Mullen points out, trust cannot be rebuilt quickly. Given the pressure that al-Qaida and the Taliban are putting on Pakistan's institutions, the question is whether it can be rebuilt in time.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

A wise politician's response should be 'No, thanks'

By DAN THOMASSON

WASHINGTON

If you are a prominent politician with big-time ambitions, say like running for president, and someone approaches you about delivering your party's response to the incumbent chief executive's address to the Congress, State of the Union or otherwise, you probably should come down with a sudden case of laryngitis.

The history of those who have taken over that seemingly awesome responsibility ... has not been all that great despite the promise the "honor" holds for advancing one's aspirations. There is nothing like being chosen to carry the party banner in front of millions and suddenly becoming a front-runner for that loftiest of all political positions, right?

Well, that's what one would think if one hadn't been paying attention to the history of these things, which apparently was the case with the latest of those to try his hand, Bobby Jindal. ... Jindal, the Rhodes scholar son of immigrants from India, has been increasingly cited as the greatest hope for picking up the shattered pieces of his party and the conservative movement, a brilliant, fast talker who could challenge the GOP's portrayal as a decaying bastion of white Anglo-Saxon protestants and bring it into the 21st century at least in diversity if not altogether in ideology. But that mantle may have slipped more than somewhat after his appearance following President Barack Obama's first address to the Congress.

Unfortunately, the [Louisiana] governor's nationwide television rebuttal came after 55 minutes of the president's speech and probably didn't reach very many Americans who by 10 p.m. or so had had enough of brain-taxing rhetoric. ... Those who stuck around for the view of the new phenomenon saw a sort of "wimpy" fellow who had little new to add to the national debate on the economy and whose delivery was noticeably inferior to Obama's. That may seem harsh given the book on Jindal as a tough, quick-witted superstar quite able to grasp complex problems.

But he was in good company when it

comes to these disappointing performances. Fred Thompson, the Watergate/legal/politician/movie star, accepted the assignment with great anticipation by those around him just after being elected to the Senate. ... His backers saw it as a rare chance to lift their man to the top of the aspirants for the presidential nomination in 1996. ... Thompson's performance could only be described as lackluster.

Then there was the most unfortunate decision by Robert Dole, an articulate, witty and skillful Senate leader, a wounded hero of World War II, and a man most members of the press — liberal, conservative or cen-

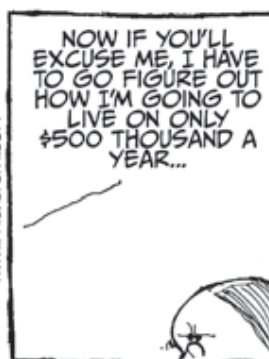
trist — admired. He should have wowed them. Instead, the harsh lights, bad script and unusually halting approach, for him at least, left him looking like a leftover of a past generation. He ultimately became the nominee in '96, but the over-the-hill image never went away.

Jindal fortunately has all kinds of time to overcome the bad reviews. ... But the Republicans and the Democrats when it is their time should not offer their superstars the opportunity for self-immolation that these addresses have become.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of Scripps Howard News Service.

Prickly City

By SCOTT STANTIS



Five stabbed in nightclub incidents

NY NEW YORK — Police have arrested a man in the stabbing of two people outside a New York City nightclub, but investigators are still looking for whoever stabbed three other people outside the same club about a half-hour later.

Police say all five victims are in stable condition after the stabbings outside the Deco club in lower Manhattan.

Mario Olmedo, 21, was arrested on assault and weapons possession charges after police said he slashed a 23-year-old man in the head and a 21-year-old woman in the neck.

It was cold enough to freeze the whole bay

MI TRAVERSE CITY — Rough winter? You bet. Look no further than ice-capped Grand Traverse Bay for proof.

A stretch of bitterly cold weather sealed the deal, and completely froze the bay for the first time in six years.

Observations from U.S. Coast Guard pilots and National Weather Service meteorologists show ice encompassed the bay amid a string of single-digit temperature days that continued into the work week.

The bay last froze in 2003 and the time before that was in 1996, records show.

Haitians protest U.S. immigration law

FL POMPANO BEACH — Hundreds of Haitians and supporters gathered to protest current U.S. immigration law and urge President Barack Obama and his administration to grant temporary protection status to the more than 30,000 illegal Haitian immigrants living in the United States.

Haiti's poverty has long hurt its people, but after Hurricane Gustav struck the island in August 2008, thousands were left homeless without food, running water and electricity.

Under current immigration law, the 600 Haitians being held at the Broward Transitional Center in Pompano Beach, Fla., where the protest was held, will be sent back to even more dire conditions.

Veterans home scales back on doctor duty

IA DAVENPORT — The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown will no longer have doctors on-site during nights and weekends. Instead, the four salaried doctors will work on-call shifts. Residents circulated a petition asking to reinstate the 24-hour coverage. The medical director said the change reduces communication problems and makes care more consistent.

Los Angeles County tries for cuss-free week

CA LOS ANGELES — Pay no attention to that eerie silence in the nation's most populous county; it will simply be the sound



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

of 10 million people not cussing.

At least that's the result McKay Hatch is hoping for once his campaign to clear the air is recognized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

The board is scheduled to issue a proclamation by Supervisor Michael Antonovich making the first week in March No Cussing Week.

That would mean no blue language from the Mojave desert, where it gets hot as \$&*# in the summer, to the Pacific Ocean, where on a winter's day it can get colder and nastier than *%\$#!

Not that Hatch, 15, expects complete compliance. When his No Cussing Club meets at South Pasadena High School on Wednesdays it's not unusual for a nonmember to throw open the door and fire off a torrent of four-letter words. He's also been the target of organized harassment by pro-cussers.

Tax coverage credited for luring new business

TN CLEVELAND — Tennessee's unusual commitment to cover the cost of any future carbon tax for green companies that make major investments is being credited for luring two big solar energy developments worth more than \$2 billion.

The tax break, which Democrat Gov. Phil Bredesen shepherded through the state legislature with



Slip, sliding

Auburn University student Patrick Duncan of Ackworth, Ga., slides down a snow-covered slope on the campus in Auburn, Ala., after a heavy snowstorm blanketed much of the state.

little fanfare last year, promises that Tennessee will offset increased costs from any future tax on carbon emissions for a select group of companies that make significant investments.

The credit would apply to any green energy supply chain company spending at least \$250 million in the state.

That includes the \$1 billion Wacker Chemie AG plant announced in Bradley County last week, and the \$1.2 billion Hemlock Semiconductor Corp. plant to be built in Montgomery County.

Husband of stabbing victim forgives attacker

HI HONOLULU — Bryan Yamashita, the husband of the victim of a fatal stabbing in Ewa, wants to forgive his wife's alleged killer.

Asa Yamashita, 43, who was the literacy coordinator and head of the English Department at Waianae High School, was stabbed to death as she sat on a bench eating sainath at the Ewa Town Center.

Tittleman Fauate, 25, was charged with murder in the second degree. He is being held on \$500,000 bail. After the attack, police found a kitchen knife that may be the murder weapon.

Mother implicated in baby's disappearance

AK ANCHORAGE — A woman who reported her baby missing is accused of orchestrating the disappearance, which triggered Alaska's first fully initiated Amber Alert.

Elisa LaCroix, 20, is charged with making a false abduction report. In January, she was charged with falsely accusing an ex-boyfriend of raping her close to her due date.

LaCroix was out on bail on the earlier case when she was arrested after 3-week-old Ethan LaCroix was found unharmed at Fort Richardson in the custody of Amelia Cameron.

No charges are planned against Cameron, who told police she didn't know her friend would file a false report.

Troopers sentenced for poaching deer on duty

MI CHEBOYGAN — Two Michigan State Police troopers have been sentenced to jail and fined for poaching deer while on duty.

District Judge Maria Barton says Jeff Hadley not only shot a deer with his hunting rifle while on patrol in November, he lied and told a fellow trooper that the blood in his vehicle was from road kill. He even claimed he had delivered the meat to a needy family, she said.

She sentenced Hadley to four days in jail and fellow trooper Dan Bolen, who she says was less culpable, to two days.

The two will split more than \$6,500 in fines and will each pay court costs topping \$3,000 and do 100 hours of community service. They will lose hunting privileges until 2013.

Both apologized during their sentencings.



Cold kitty

Shadow, a 6-month-old female cat, was rescued by deputies, who discovered the cat trapped in a bong after responding to a domestic disturbance call at a residency that a 20-year-old suspect shares with his grandfather in the Lincoln, Neb., area. The man, who was released from jail after paying a \$400 fine on the arrest warrant, faces drug and misdemeanor animal cruelty charges. Shadow was timid but healthy.



Story needs no words

Blair Simmons portrays Jesus as members of the Ascension Youth Mime Ministry of Waukesha present the "Passion Story" in mime at Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine, Wis.



Protesting policies

Thousands of demonstrators turned out to protest Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's illegal-immigration policies in Phoenix.



The boys of winter Members of the St. Croix Base Ball Club, left, and St. Paul Saints players and local celebrities line up in the shoveled paths between the bases during introductions at a vintage "base ball" game at Midway Stadium in St. Paul, Minn., to benefit Second Harvest Heartland.



Piano man Pat McCormick begins fine tuning and matching five grand pianos for the Five Browns concert at the Henderson Fine Arts Center in Henderson, Ky. The Five Browns is a family of five classical musicians originally from Utah.



Get that outhouse moving The "Indy Can" outhouse, being pushed by Tom and Don Felty of Frankfort, Ind., competes in the 50-and-over age bracket of the 16th Annual Trenary Outhouse Classic in Trenary, Mich.

Retired Army officer takes over USO in N.C.

NC JACKSONVILLE — The United Service Organizations of North Carolina received more than 250 applications for their vacant position of president. John Falkenbury stood out among the crowd.

The retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel has been officially appointed as president and chief operating officer of the USO of North Carolina.

Falkenbury, 53, said being a part of the USO is a way for him to get back in touch with the military.

"Our soldiers and sailors and Marines are all at war right now and I just feel that I needed to do something that engages me back in the fight," he said.

"If this is one way that I can do it, then this is one way that I can give back."

Voters OK restriction on water extraction

ME SHAPLEIGH — Voters here approved a measure that prohibits companies from extracting or selling water from aquifers in the town.

At a special meeting, residents voted 114 to 66 in favor of the ban, drafted by a group that opposes the Poland Spring company's efforts to test, draw and bottle the town's water.

Officials to designate town as Superfund site

MT SUPERIOR — Federal officials will recommend that this town and a nearby watershed be designated a Superfund site to speed cleanup.

Decades of gold and silver mining at Iron Mountain Mine and Mill left tailings piles containing high levels of arsenic, lead and other unhealthy substances.

After it closed in 1953, tailings were used in Superior as fill in driveways, roads and the high school track.

City announces plans to restore burned park

TX ANSON — An Anson city park that was torched last month will be rebuilt.

Anson Mayor Boyd Vance says the park was insured and officials are working to determine a cost estimate for restoration.

So far no arrests have been made for the fire that destroyed most of the park, including a playground complex built by volunteers in 2004.

Boyd says it was "heartbreaking" when he saw what was left from the fire.

Firm tightens screening after guard arrests

CT WEST HARTFORD — Colt Manufacturing officials said they've added surveillance cameras and increased their screening of new security guard applicants following the arrest of a second guard at the gun manufacturer.

Jerome Phillips, 30, was arraigned on a larceny charge. In December, Edward Moreno, 41, was charged with a hate crime and with attempting to steal a rifle.

Man who was wrongly accused gets settlement

LA COVINGTON — A man who wrongly spent 19 years in prison for rape is set to receive a \$1.4 million settlement of a federal lawsuit.

The Covington City Council approved a \$300,000 promissory note to Dennis Patrick Brown, whose conviction was overturned in 2004 after DNA evidence showed he could not have committed the crime. He'll also receive \$1.1 million from the city's insurers.

Gorilla is strangled while sleeping in his cage

MO ST. LOUIS — A gorilla at the St. Louis Zoo was accidentally strangled in his sleeping cage.

Zookeepers said they found the body of 8-year-old Muchana tangled in rope. Zoo officials said it appeared Muchana pulled apart some of the rope used for climbing, and it became wrapped around his neck.

City on track to break record for snowfall

ND BISMARCK — The city is on a pace to break its snow record, set during the winter of 1996-97. The National Weather Service said Bismarck has gotten more than 70 inches so far this winter.

It's only the seventh time in history the city has surpassed the 70-inch mark. The 1996-97 record is 101.6 inches of snow.

Rally supports former Marine after gun arrest

OR SALEM — About 75 people rallied in the Capitol steps in support of Jeffrey Maxwell, a Western Oregon University student and former Marine who has a concealed weapons permit.

Maxwell, 30, was arrested in January for possession of a firearm in a public building on campus. The charge was later dropped, but he was suspended from school until the end of the spring term. Maxwell has appealed.

Farmer still going strong at 100

VA ABINGDON — Luther Johnson remembers when covered wagons headed for California passed his family's farm on U.S. Highway 11.

He recalls the years before and during the Great Depression, when crowds filled the town streets on Saturdays and a trip to Bristol was an all-day affair.

He also remembers the way the economy energized after World War II and the scores of houses he built in Abingdon over decades in the construction business.

That was all before he retired in 1986 to work on the farm where he and his brother Herbert raise cattle. Today, Luther Johnson turns 100 — and he's still on the tractor.

A crowd — easily 200 people — packed the conference center at the Washington County Fairgrounds to celebrate the 100th birthday of a man they said has always lived right, been more than honest and never cut corners.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

There are things you know that are hard to prove. Maybe they don't even make logical sense; still, there's no doubt in your mind they are true. Such beliefs are highlighted as Mercury lines up with mystical Neptune in a rare conjunction. You may be compelled to share your faith, though don't feel you have to justify it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 5).

The dreams you have for your personal life will materialize this year. Loved ones who depend on you will be thrilled with what you bring to the relationship. Your professional efforts will be recognized by a VIP and promoted in the late spring. Others find your observations fascinating. You could be asked to speak in public. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you're on the job you will enjoy collaboration, even when it's not going so smoothly. Sometimes the more raucous collaborations produce the most impressive results. You work it through with your eye on the end result.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As it was with the turtle and the hare, getting to the finish line first isn't always about moving fast. A slow and steady pace will increase your chances of winning, as well as your enjoyment of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not afraid to disagree with those in charge. However, you wisely choose the best time to do this — not today. Gather your thoughts, as well as the evidence that there might be a better way to proceed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The creativity is definitely flowing now. If you share your fantasies, they will be taken seriously. This can be positive or negative, depending on what you've been imagining and whom you tell.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Playing hard to get is so against your nature when you really want the other person (or job or other situation) enough

to chase after it. Luckily you have the confidence not to pursue. Let life come to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's so lucky that people come to you with problems now. Your service and expertise is needed. You could make some money with this and there's nothing stopping you from doing so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your sweetness is not only appreciated, it's needed. Someone with a demanding career will rely on you for a feeling of home and family. Your brand of comfort will favorably affect this person's health.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not enough to know that all things are connected. You want to feel it. That's why you're on the hunt for a sign that you are in the right place at the right time. Synchronistic events will delight you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are times to be tenacious and this isn't one of them. When you feel resistance, back off. Reconsider the people involved. Ask more questions about what others want and need from a situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Part of the reason people gravitate toward you is that you are a source of interest and fun for them. Remember this when you're with your inner circle of comfortable people. Make an effort, even for family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Those who exhibit some kind of creative talent will catch your eye. Not because they can do something special, but because they make you feel a certain way. You'll be inspired to develop your own talents, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is no reason to desire what you already have. That may be why you subconsciously create some distance in relationships. A loved one senses you are not so easily won and will work to gain your favorable attention.

Creators Syndicate

SU/DO/KU

© Puzzles by Pappocom

4		1	7		9
	2	6	3	1	
2	8			3	7
6					4
7	1			8	5
	3	2	8	7	
1		4	6		2

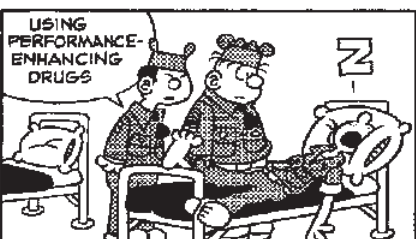
Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

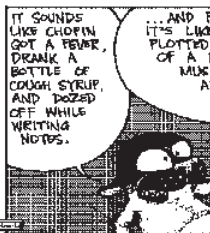
Yesterday's Solution

2	9	1	3	8	7	6	4	5
5	6	7	2	1	4	8	3	9
4	8	3	6	5	9	1	2	7
3	2	5	8	4	1	7	9	6
1	4	8	9	7	6	3	5	2
9	7	6	5	2	3	4	8	1
6	5	4	1	9	8	2	7	3
8	1	2	7	3	5	9	6	4
7	3	9	4	6	2	5	1	8

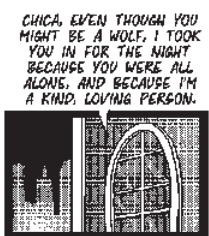
Beetle Bailey



Get Fuzzy



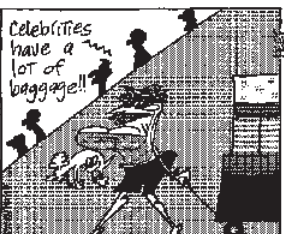
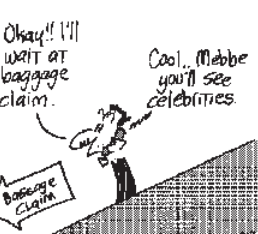
Candorville



Meaning of Lila



Knight Life



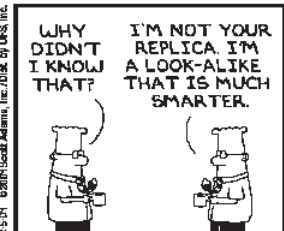
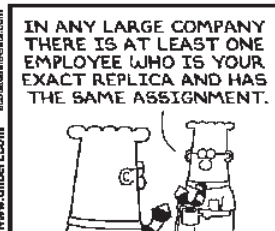
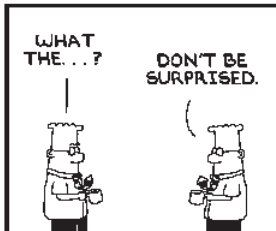
Baldo



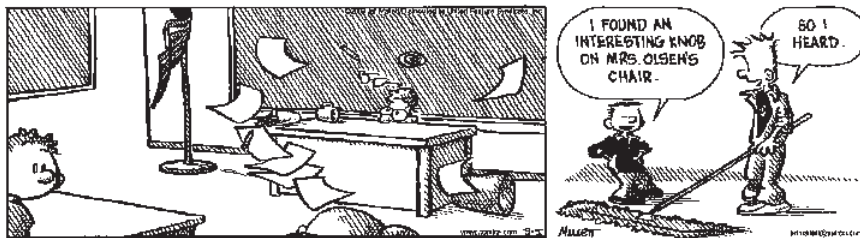
Other Coast



Dilbert



Frazz



Garfield



Baby Blues



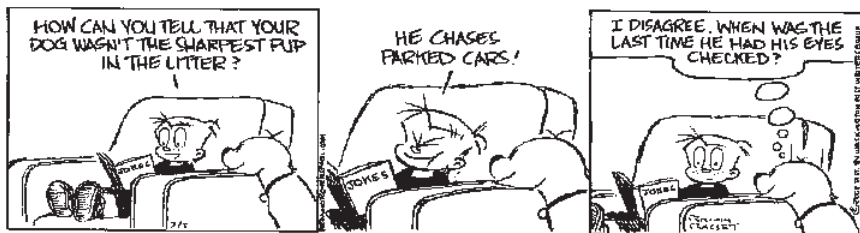
Jump Start



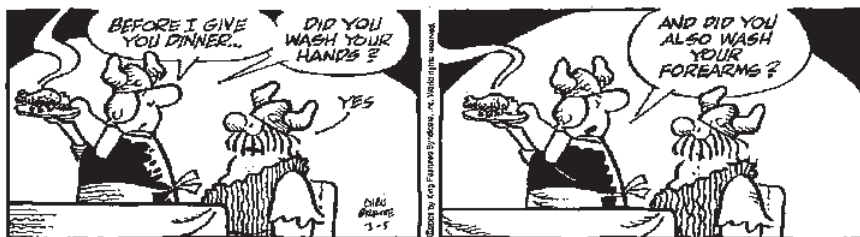
Zits



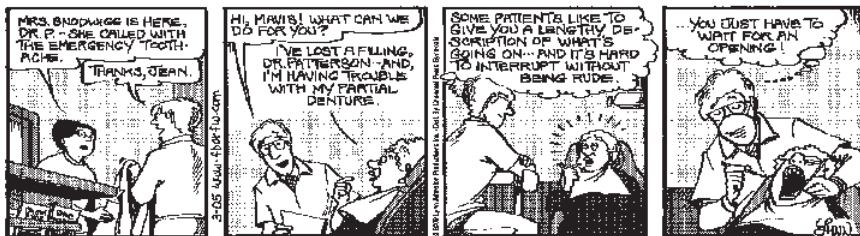
Red & Rover



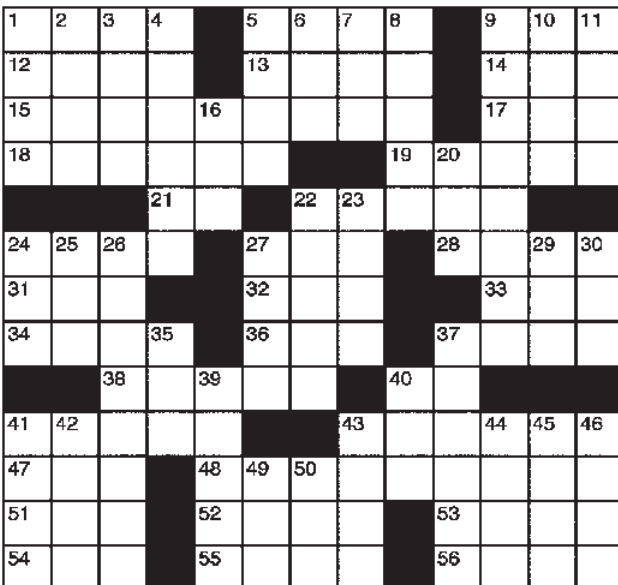
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Typeface choice
- 5 Quest
- 9 Witty one
- 12 Open a crack
- 13 Terrible guy?
- 14 Rd.
- 15 Plumbers' job?
- 17 X rating?
- 18 Stages a protest, of a sort
- 19 On the qui vive
- 21 "And I should care ... why?"
- 22 "Napoleon Dynamite" star
- 24 Sore
- 27 Distant
- 28 As well
- 31 As well
- 32 Submachine gun
- 33 "— Town"
- 34 November responsibility
- 36 Fellows
- 37 Failure
- 38 Cardiff's country
- 40 "Goodness gracious!"
- 41 Extra
- 43 Tea variety
- 47 Table scrap
- 48 Johnson opponent
- 51 Anonymous John
- 52 Very enthusiastic
- 53 Telegram
- 54 Springtime mo.

DOWN

- 25 Bill's partner
- 26 Trouble
- 27 Sulk angrily
- 29 Bottom line
- 30 Scepter ornament
- 35 Listening device
- 37 Local ordinances
- 39 Constitutional
- 40 Take blades to blades
- 41 Pop
- 42 Item on stage
- 43 Probability
- 44 Related to 35-Down
- 45 Pianist Peter
- 46 Got bigger
- 49 Eggs
- 50 Fleur-de- —

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-5

CRYPTOQUIP

MOPGIQO QWKKFR DGQ GCC
TKIE KT DHQ COBQ
KISQSEOSPDOZ, H'Z QGR

DO'Q CRHWB QFEOGZ-MOGBCO.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A GINGER SNAP OR MACAROON IS STRANGE-LOOKING, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL IT A KOOKY COOKIE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

Check early for kidney disease

Dear Abby: I was a healthy 12-year-old girl in junior high, sociable and energetic with no cares in the world, until one day my mother noticed I wasn't my usual self.

I was tired and had no interest in any activities. Frustrated, she encouraged me to try out for my school's volleyball team.

What was supposed to be a routine physical for the team turned into a life-changing experience.

I did not end up making the team.

Instead I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. My test results showed that I had too much protein in my urine. After more tests, I was told I was in kidney failure.

I was only 12, and I didn't understand why this was happening to me.

Nobody was expecting the news

we got that day.

The doctors told my parents that I would need to go on dialysis or have a kidney transplant and we should start looking for a donor.

A urine test was never part of any of my annual checkups.

But protein in the urine is one of the earliest signs of kidney disease.

That simple test might have prevented me from losing both kidneys.

Nearly 100,000 men, women and children are now on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. One hundred people

are added to the list — and 17 die — every day. With early detection kidney disease can be prevented. So please urge your readers to get screened now and screened often.

— Klarissa Ramirez, Minneapolis

Dear Abby



Dear Klarissa: Thank you for your letter. I was, frankly, shocked to learn from it that kidney disease could strike a person at such a tender age. I'm pleased to pass along your important message.

Readers, March is National Kidney Month — and March 12 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has a screening program called KEEP, which stands for Kidney Early Evaluation Program. On World Kidney Day, KEEP will offer FREE screenings in cities across the country for people at risk for kidney disease.

If you or a family member has diabetes or high blood pressure, or if there is a history of kidney disease in your family, visit kidney.org to learn more and locate a screening near you, or call the National Kidney Foundation at 1-800-622-9010.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WOSON

PHACT

YARLIF

KLEECH

NEW JUMBLE NINTENDO www.jumble.com/vds

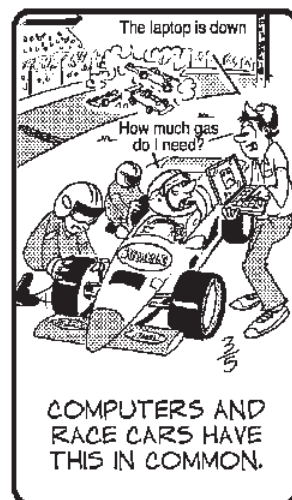
Ans: THEY

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOIC HUMID OCCULT NICETY Answer: What the crafts class said when they learned to make a belt — IT'S A "CINCH"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

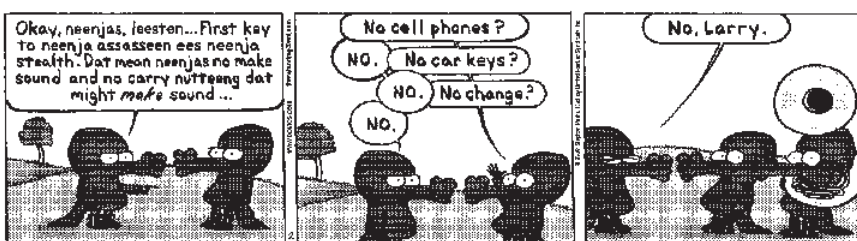
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

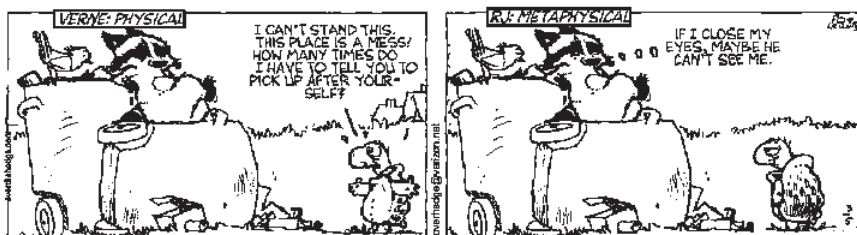
Pearls Before Swine



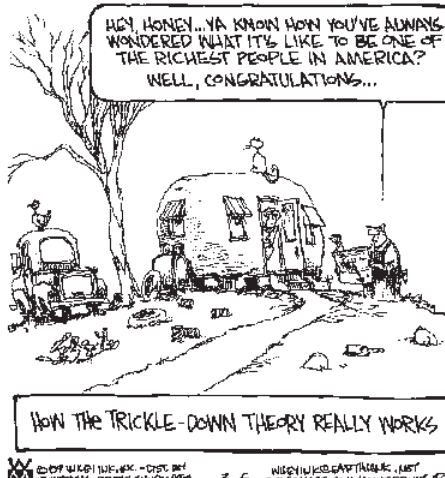
B.C.



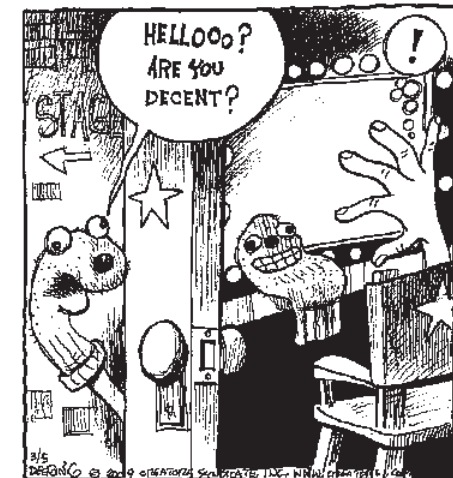
Pardon My Planet Over The Hedge



Non Sequitur



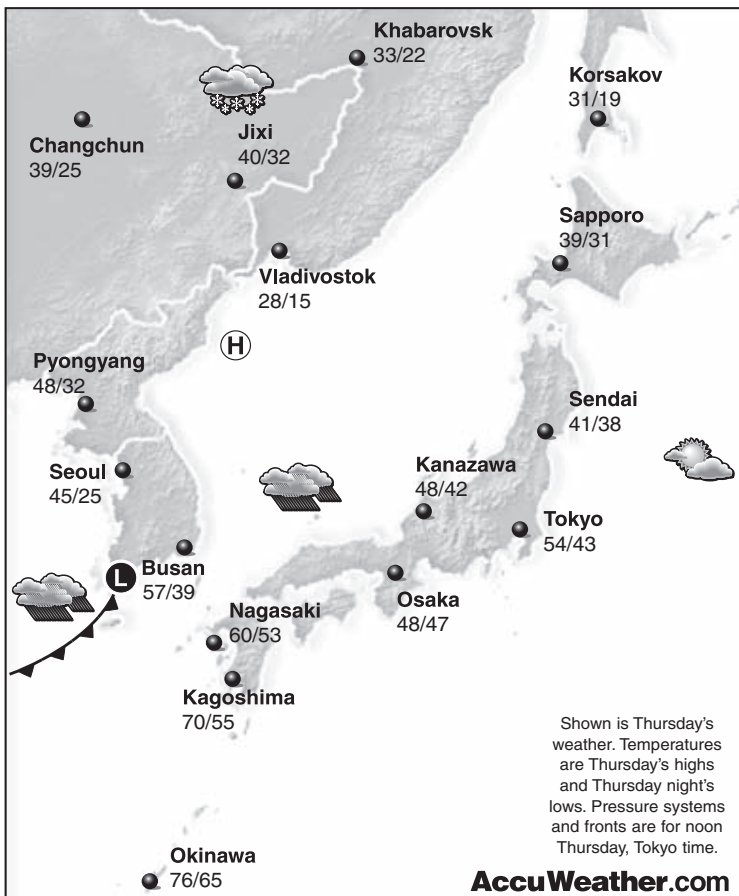
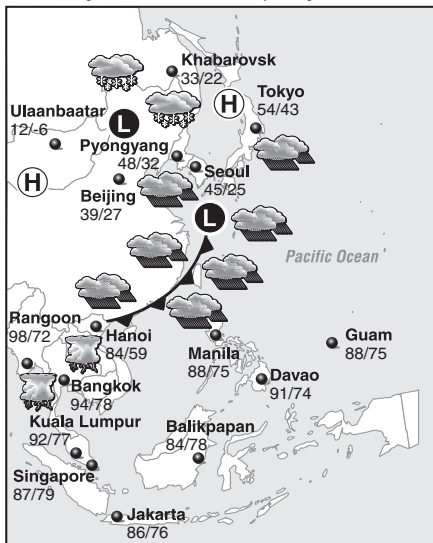
Strange Brew



TIDE TABLES

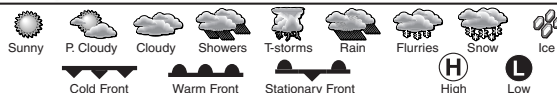
Location	High	Low	High	Low
Japan				
Yokosuka	8:42 a.m.	2:26 a.m.	none	5:55 p.m.
Sasebo	2:58 a.m.	8:03 a.m.	1:41 p.m.	9:24 p.m.
Naha	1:43 a.m.	6:22 a.m.	12:35 p.m.	8:25 p.m.
Hachinohe	6:56 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	none	none
Korea				
Cheju Island/Sogwipo	4:12 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	4:31 p.m.	10:49 p.m.
Kunsan	9:11 a.m.	3:17 a.m.	9:38 p.m.	4:23 p.m.
Guam				
Apra Harbor	3:30 a.m.	7:29 a.m.	12:38 p.m.	8:49 p.m.
Friday				
Japan				
Yokosuka	3:24 a.m.	6:52 a.m.	10:29 a.m.	7:33 p.m.
Sasebo	5:15 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	1:11 p.m.	11:09 p.m.
Naha	3:57 a.m.	8:56 a.m.	2:36 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
Hachinohe	7:49 a.m.	5:50 p.m.	none	none
Korea				
Cheju Island/Sogwipo	6:07 a.m.	1:37 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	none
Kunsan	10:59 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	11:33 p.m.	6:16 p.m.
Guam				
Apra Harbor	4:56 a.m.	9:10 a.m.	1:59 p.m.	10:02 p.m.

For tides at other sites apply minutes to Naha tides:
 Sukku, Ora Wan: -39, Sesoko Bay: +11 high and low tide;
 Uten Ko: -7 high, -8 low, Yonabaru, Buckner Bay: -44 high, -42 low.



Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows. Pressure systems and fronts are for noon Thursday, Tokyo time.

AccuWeather.com



CANADA

City	Hi	Lo	W
Calgary	21	-2	Snow
Edmonton	18	-12	Snow
Halifax	28	15	PCldy
Iqaluit	-1	-7	Cldy
Montreal	25	16	PCldy
Ottawa	34	21	PCldy
Quebec	21	10	PCldy
Regina	33	13	Snow
Toronto	41	35	Cldy
Vancouver	46	28	PCldy
Whitehorse	19	8	Cldy
Windsor	43	38	PCldy
Winnipeg	36	19	Snow
Yellowknife	6	-11	Cldy

EUROPE

City	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	46	39	Rain
Athens	63	50	Shwr
Belgrade	59	42	Cldy
Berlin	47	39	Rain
Brussels	45	36	Cldy
Dublin	43	37	PCldy
Glasgow	43	32	Cldy
Lisbon	59	54	Shwr
London	41	36	PCldy
Madrid	48	32	Rain
Moscow	30	21	Fly
Paris	43	36	PCldy
Rome	55	43	Rain
Warsaw	41	34	Rain

MIDDLE EAST

City	Hi	Lo	W
Ashgabat	42	35	Snow
Baghdad	68	45	PCldy
Cairo	81	67	PCldy
Dhahran	76	54	Sun
Islamabad	86	53	Sun
Incirlik	65	52	PCldy
Kabul	57	31	Sun
Kandahar	80	43	Sun
Karachi	82	70	Sun
Kuwait	76	57	Sun
Mazar-e-Sharif	61	44	PCldy
Tehran	51	35	PCldy
Tel Aviv	76	63	PCldy
Zahedan	67	40	Sun

AFRICA

City	Hi	Lo	W
Abidjan	88	75	Shwr
Algiers	58	42	Rain
Cape Town	90	68	Sun
Casablanca	65	49	Shwr
Durban	77	67	Shwr
Freetown	91	72	Sun
Kano	106	65	Sun
Khartoum	102	62	Sun
Kisangani	93	69	PCldy
Luanda	92	78	PCldy
Malakal	108	66	Sun
Mogadishu	91	75	Sun
Tabora	85	65	Sun
Timbuktu	99	60	Sun

LATIN AMERICA

City	Hi	Lo	W
Acapulco	89	71	Sun
Bogota	66	45	Rain
Buenos Aires	77	66	PCldy
Cancun	82	63	PCldy
Havana	80	56	PCldy
Kingston	83	74	Sun
Lima	83	69	Shwr
Mexico City	80	41	Sun
Nassau	74	66	PCldy
Puerto Plata	77	73	Cldy
Rio de Janeiro	92	80	PCldy
Santiago	90	57	Sun
Santo Domingo	81	64	Sun
San Jose	77	68	Rain

ASIA / PACIFIC

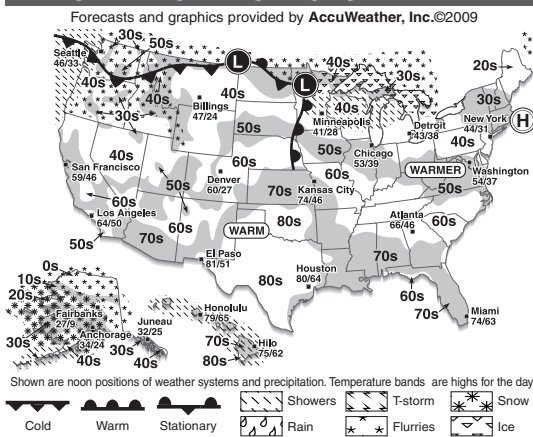
City	Hi	Lo	W
Auckland	77	69	Rain
Colombo	88	75	Sun
Darwin	92	80	Shwr
Dhaka	95	75	Sun
Hong Kong	77	66	Tstm
Kathmandu	90	48	Sun
Melbourne	64	54	Rain
Mumbai	89	74	Sun
New Delhi	88	61	Sun
Phnom Penh	88	77	Tstm
Shanghai	54	40	Shwr
Sydney	72	59	PCldy
Taipei	78	62	Sun
Xining	43	25	PCldy

THURSDAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

City	Hi	Lo	W
Abilene, TX	84	58	PCldy
Akron, OH	51	39	Cldy
Albany, NY	38	26	PCldy
Albuquerque	69	43	PCldy
Allentown, PA	42	29	PCldy
Amarillo	83	43	PCldy
Anchorage	34	24	Snow
Asheville	62	34	PCldy
Atlanta	66	46	Sun
Atlantic City	45	32	PCldy
Austin	80	57	PCldy
Baltimore	46	32	PCldy
Baton Rouge	76	57	PCldy
Billings	47	24	Cldy
Birmingham	69	51	Sun
Bismarck	40	20	Cldy
Boise	48	32	Cldy
Boston	37	26	PCldy
Bridgeport	38	30	PCldy
Brownsville	83	65	Sun
Buffalo	47	36	Cldy
Burlington	30	20	PCldy
Caribou, ME	23	7	PCldy
Casper	49	25	Cldy
Charleston, SC	66	41	Sun
Charleston, WV	59	42	Cldy
Charlotte, NC	60	39	PCldy
Chattanooga	66	43	PCldy
Cheyenne	54	29	PCldy
Chicago	53	39	Cldy
Cincinnati	56	42	Cldy
Cleveland	50	39	Cldy

City	Hi	Lo	W
Colorado Sprgs.	64	32	PCldy
Columbia, SC	64	39	Sun
Columbus, OH	70	45	Sun
Columbus, OH	52	46	Cldy
Concord, NH	34	18	PCldy
Corpus Christi	81	64	PCldy
Dallas	86	61	PCldy
Daytona Beach	51	44	Cldy
Daytona Beach	50	30	Sun
Denver	60	27	PCldy
Des Moines	63	33	PCldy
Detroit	43	38	Cldy
Duluth	38	24	Cldy
El Paso	81	51	Sun
Elkins	58	29	PCldy
Erie	50	38	Cldy
Eugene	47	34	Cldy
Evansville	64	49	Cldy
Fairbanks	27	9	Snow
Fargo	38	21	Cldy
Flagstaff	49	26	PCldy
Flint	46	36	Cldy
Fort Smith	76	54	PCldy
Fort Wayne	48	41	Cldy
Fresno	62	44	Cldy
Goodland	71	26	PCldy
Grand Junction	61	34	Cldy
Grand Rapids	66	43	PCldy
Great Falls	37	10	Cldy
Green Bay	41	31	Cldy
Greensboro, NC	56	38	PCldy
Harrisburg	45	29	Cldy

THE UNITED STATES THURSDAY



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Announcements 040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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www.stripes.com

Autos for Sale 141

Iwakuni - 1990 & 1993 Skyline GTRs. This is essentially a two for one sale. One complete car and second high performance GTR parted out. Too many parts & upgrades to list. \$9000. Email: potwic@gmail.com

Yokosuka - 1995 BMW 320i, 31,000km, silver, 4 door JCI 8/2/2010. \$2,500. Contact anne.hammett@hotmail.com

Yokosuka - 2007 Silver Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo-less than 10,000 miles in perfect condition for sale! This SUV is left hand drive with a state of the art Navigation system and will come with a low profile roof rack, custom mats and so much more! Too much to mention here. Only asking \$19,500 OBO for this mint condition Jeep Grand Cherokee. You won't get a better price anywhere else! Call Ronnie at 090-934-7179 or email surfjapan@gmail.com for further details.

Yokosuka, Japan - 1997 Nissan EL Grand \$2450 very nice Beater sunroof clean van great for family only \$2450 please call 080-5497-1787

Yokosuka, Japan - 1999 Mercedes Benz C200 White in color tinted windows, 10 disc CD player and MD player. Power windows, trunk, and mirrors. 78,800 km. Pirelli tires. Very clean. Must sell for van. Just renewed JCI Asking \$5500 OBO Please call 080-5897-5447 or fundip502002@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokosuka, Japan - Volkswagen Golf wagon 5 door \$2250 Silver outside dark gray inside tinted windows very clean sporty aluminum rims great family car at a great price asking \$2250. 1 year JCI left call 080-5497-1787 or potwic@gmail.com

Yokota - 1989 Toyota Surf. 4X4. Automatic. Power windows/locks/A/C. JCI till Sep 2009. Runs great/good solid truck. \$1500.00 OBO. Call Rick @ 225-5855 or 080-3708-3257.

Yokota - 1992 Honda Civic. Runs well. Plenty of room. Automatic transmission. Comes with new antenna and new radio. Selling to pay off debt. JCI till 10/10. \$1200 obo. Email: John_nicola@hotmail.com

Yokota - 1992 Nissan Gloria. JCI: Good 'til Dec 2010. \$2000 OBO. Price is very negotiable. Just make me an Offer! CALL Craig at (823)-734-9619 or call [\(305\)-537-5240](mailto:080384577823@jesse.at). Cell 08035184639

Yokota - 1996 Honda Odyssey. Blue Minivan for \$2500. Runs great. JCI until June 2010. CD/MP3 player, power windows/locks, A/C, 4 DR, A/T. 86,000 km. Contact: javieralmador@gmail.com or call Javier @ 410-674-7038 @ Yokota AB

Announcements 040

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Autos for Sale 141

Yokota - 1997 Mazda MPV \$2500 JCI Oct 2010. Exterior: white & tan. Mileage: 76,200 km. Interior: gray extras: auto entry, auto start, new sound system, good condition tires, tinted windows. Alternate e-mail: chris7452@aol.com

Yokota - 1999 Mitsubishi Chariot Grandia V6 Royal. No Scratches or Dents. No Smoker. 7 Passenger. Van, Strong V6, 3.000cc GDI Engine JCI 24 Jan 2011. \$ 4,500 obo. Contact 1-801-983-0802

Yokota - 1999 Subaru Wagon. Silver, Automatic, Air, CD, 85,000 Kilometers, New JCI good until 2011. \$2500 Or Best Offer. Cell 225-5001 or 1-973-900-8989.

Yokota - '95 Honda Civic PCSing must sell!! 35K km, CD player. Great for driving around base. Very clean! JCI Aug 09. \$1000 obo. Contact - 5093430778

Yokota - 96 Nissan Cefiro JCI Exp Feb 2011. \$1,800. Please e-mail if interested frankie-chini@hotmail.com ann.stanford@yokota.af.mil

Yokota - Domani for sale It's a 4 door, black, runs well, never had a problem with it 20 dollars will fix your tank up not a gas guzzler at all. Price is so low due to JCI in 3 months. JCI May 2009. \$500. Contact 512-275-4912

Yokota, Japan - 1995 Black Skyline GTS-1 (single turbo) I've owned this Skyline for 4 Months. It has black soft leather seat covers and an air purifier. I had the oil changed in November, I have the receipt and it has never given me any problems. JCI until April 2010 asking \$2300 I'm selling because I'm getting married and need a bigger car this car is very fast and easy to drive and looks great! Please call 080-3726-3269

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Honda CRV 68,000 Km. Power windows, brakes, Locks, Air Bags, 2000cc gasoline engine, JCI until April 2009. All taxes already paid for 2008. Asking \$3900. Call 090-9968-9995 if you have any question

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Nissan Cima very comfortable ride! Clean and well kept 18" Chrome wheels, all region DVD player and 7" wide screens in the headrests. 10 subwoofers and amps included (reg. install) All speakers upgraded to Pioneer. List up number plates. Everything power, AT, detailing and all servicing dw. JCI until April 2010 Asking \$4000 OBO If interested, contact me anytime to take a look. 080.6673.1820

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Nissan Skyline R33 GTS 4 Door RB20E inline 6 Engine, GPS Navigation, Automatic Climate Control, Power Mirrors, Windows, Door Locks, Tinted Windows, Automatic Transmission, Great Family car JCI until July 09 asking \$1500 OBO Please call 904-328-2070

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Toyota Camry (Gray w/Brown Int.) Low Miles 29,326 Miles (47,196 KM) Well Maintained (Regular Oil Change, Radiator, Auto Trans, New Battery) JCI Due Jul 2009 Asking \$1500 OBO Contact Doug or Myong Suk 1-210-881-4392

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Honda Civic Ek2 - Black. Odometer: 73,000km. Color: Black. Very Clean. 4 Cylinder Engine 4 Speed Automatic Transmission Front Wheel Drive Power Steering Seating Capacity: 5 Fuel Tank Capacity: 45 liter (12 gal) ABS Brakes Yellow Fog Lights Air Conditioning Remote Locks Power Windows Driver & Passenger Airbags 6 Disc CD Changer Cold Down Rear Seats JCI until January 2010 asking \$1500 call 080-3421-9061

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Mitsubishi Evolution 1997. AWD, 5 speed manual, turbo, intercooler, TV/DVD/navigation system, 500 hp, 180,000 km. No gas, no insurance, gas, and road taxes. Owned for 8 months and everything runs strong and great. JCI until June 2010. Asking \$4500 OBO Please call 3133471009

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Subaru Forester Too Fast Too Furious. 5 Speed Manual, Blow Off Valve, Roll Bars front and back, HKS Multi-Link Air Cleaners, Turbo Gauge, Imprezza STI Sport Seats, 18" Chrome Wheels, Red Calipers, New Tires, 91,000km, AM/FM CD Power Windows, Locks, Keyless, 2 years JCI, Road Tax, Recycle Tax all paid. One month warranty on engine and transmission asking \$4900 Call 080-5668-9595

Yokota Team Geki JZX90 Plauer V (fully loaded). JCI October 2009. JPY800000. E-mail bluefactory2@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Toyota Van 40,000 km. Power windows, Brakes, Navigation, 8seater, with CD player, Very Clean, come with JCI Road Tax, Recycle Tax and one month warranty. I have one Keyless and three spare keys. 2 years JCI please call 090-9968-9995

Yokota, Japan - 1999 Mercedes Benz C200 MD and 10 disc CD player, Automatic windows, trunk and mirrors. Keyless entry. Laser cut key very immaculate. White in color tinted window. Pirelli tires 78,000 km. 5,700 OBO Make me an offer. Must sell JCI until Dec 2010. Asking \$5,700 OBO Please call 080-5897-5447

Yokota, Japan - 2001 Nissan Elgrand 128,000km, Power windows, locks, Brakes, Keyless, Air Bags, 8seater, 3300cc gasoline, very clean, AM/FM CD, Comes with 2 years JCI, Road Tax and Recycle tax paid, comes with 30 days warranty on engine and transmission, asking \$3900 call 090-9968-9995

Yokota, Japan - 95 Honda Accord \$1500 obo PCSing Must Sell Great car but PCSing a must sell quickly! AC, CD player, Power everything 150K km. JCI until Oct 09. Asking \$1500 OBO Please call 5093430778

Yokota, Japan - Nissan AD Cagon Great Delivery or Camping Truck great gas mileage! Last Inspected - 09/2008 Engine Clean - 09/2008 Engine Clean - 09/2008 Engine Clean - 09/2008 2 Rear Tires 12/2008 JCI until Oct. 2010 Asking \$500 OBO Please call 080-358-80122 cell

Zama - 1995 BMW 318Ti, Blue, auto, PW, PL, sunroof, JCI good 'til Dec 2010, new transmission asking 2800.00 OBO. Call Jon 080-3921-1309.

Zama - 1998 Honda Logo hatchback, light blue, gray interior, 82,346km. JCI until October 2009. Available mid March 2009. \$1,000.00 OBO. Call 288-4073.

Autos Wanted 156

Zama - Wanted: Reliable auto for less than \$1000 with JCI good until at least Feb 2010. I would prefer something small with good gas mileage, and a yellow plate would be a plus! I can pay cash, and would like to be driving the car ASAP! Call 267-6414, leave a message.

Motorcycles 164

Yokosuka, Japan - 1999 Honda VTR1000 Firestorm 1000cc V-Twin (Super hawk in the U.S.) 15,000 km. New tires, fillers, oil, runs great. JCI until June 2010 located on the Atsugi base. Asking \$4000 FIRM Please call Tony 080-3722-1771

Motorcycles 164

Yokosuka, Japan - 2004 SUZUKI K1 GSX-R 600 K-4 Ed. 2004 full boxer 600 excellent condition. Full Filler Bone after market exhaust. Ohlins steering damper, custom seat, Headlight cover & new tires Canadian Specs, can ship to states. Only \$500 mi. JCI August 2010, Asking \$7800 Please call (813) 200-9379

Yokota - 1993 Kawasaki ZXR 400. Bike is in very good condition. Will have 2 years of JCI by the end of this week. Very fun in the mountains on the twisties. Bike has practically brand new tires. I ride to work every day. Fires right up no matter how cold it is. JCI Feb 2011 \$3000. Contact 1-615-345-8820

Yokota - 2004 GSX-R 600 K-4 Edition, yellow, mint condition, exhaust, full exhaust (Fish Bone), Ohlins steering damper, custom seat w/ER membrane, headlight cover, new tires, JCI August 2010. 10,000 mi, \$7900. Call 080-3204-2513 or email aladim002@yahoo.com for PICS.

Yokota, Japan - 2008 Yamaha 600 CC Scooter, Brand New, Brand New, tan, -600 km, JCI Expires June 2009. Great storage space for those quick shoppers. Perfect for Japan. Park it almost anywhere you want. JCI until June 2009, asking \$1750 Please call 080-6596-9611

Motorcycle Parts 171

Yokota, Japan - 105th Anniversary Harley Denim Jacket: This jacket is a size large, still in the package! 105th Anniversary logo on the back, I have additional close up pictures of front and back. please email scotntam@yahoo.com for more pictures if interested. I accidentally ordered two. (Amateur online shopper) Give me a call and I'll sell it to you instead of shipping it back. New \$53.50 + shipping will take \$45.00 512-275-4895 / 080-3459-1594 / 080-3459-1565

Yokota, Japan - Looking for TW200 and/or parts I am looking for a TW200 and/or parts for one. I am looking for parts like the side covers (usually taken off in Japan for the naked look), the stock head light and any other stock parts. If anyone has or knows of someone that has a TW or parts, please let me know. Phone # 314-558-3462 Thanks!

Yokota, Japan - Two Kids Bike One Red and One Blue children's bikes for age group 4-8. Please E-mail me for pictures! Asking \$30 each Please email sherrielawton@hotmail.com

Auto Parts 180

Yokota, Japan - UMUC Bio 160 book this book is NIP. Never used. Human Biology - 6th edition Daniel D. Chiras 10 digit ISBN: Asking \$40. Please call 076375368

Auto Parts 180

Zama - For sale. Many parts for a 1994 Suzuki Wagon-R. My 1994 dark green Suzuki Wagon-R was recently in an accident that has totaled it, but there are a lot of good parts still on it. Parts will be available soon, but not for long because the car will be junked. This is an opportunity to fix up your car for a low price. Call 267-6414. Let me know what you need and make an offer.

Baby Items 200

Atsugi - Instep Safari double jogging stroller Red/Grey, Swivel front wheel that will also lock for jogging. Individual reclining seats, parent console on back, Sassa's Kiddies sun/wind/bug cover with UV protection, 50lbs per seat, folds for storage, snack trays that attach to the belly bar (brand new) \$175 OBO. email: tiffnif@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Boy 18mth Clothes I am cleaning out my son's closet. Jeans, shirts, hats, coats, shoes, I'll post a picture tonight. Lots of items asking \$30 for everything Call 3145583462

Yokota, Japan - Crib and Dresser/Changing Table I am looking for a crib and matching dresser. Changing table also, but that is optional. I would prefer a dark espresso color but will consider others. My baby is due in April and I am running out of options! Please email xobrandyx82@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Precious Moments Crib Set I have a precious moments crib set that's only been washed and never used. I ended up changing the theme in my child's room. I also have a matching precious moment baby binder for \$20.00 Sorry I don't have pictures up but my computer is acting up tonight. \$20 OBO Please call 9492586866

Bicycles 220

Yokota - 2 Mountain Bikes. Excellent Condition. Kept indoors. \$85. Call 080-3204-3213 or 813-200-9379.

Yokota, Japan - Two Kids Bike One Red and One Blue children's bikes for age group 4-8. Please E-mail me for pictures! Asking \$30 each Please email sherrielawton@hotmail.com

Books 250

Yokota, Japan - UMUC Bio 160 book this book is NIP. Never used. Human Biology - 6th edition Daniel D. Chiras 10 digit ISBN: Asking \$40. Please call 076375368

Clothing 320

Zama - Looking for a prom dress? I am selling two beautiful dresses- both worn only once and dry cleaned after- first one: floor length, full skirt, strapless, fitted, detailed bodice, size 9-10, second dress: tiered, shorter in front with slight train, sky blue, rhinestone detail on bodice, spaghetti strap, size 14. Will sell for \$150.00 each. Originally paid over \$300.00 each. Must see to appreciate. Please contact 263-7990, or e-mail snickerdoodle@hotmail.com

Computers 360

Yokota - Computer Desk a Tan computer desk in semi good condition. Please e-mail me for pictures! sherrielawton@hotmail.com asking \$65 OBO Please call sherrielawton@hotmail.com

Yokota - The Print Shop Deluxe (Version 22) Opened the box and never got around to using the program. \$49.00 at the box, selling for \$20. Jason Horns (713) 490 0578. Cell 08032519808

Furniture 510

Yokota, Japan - Rolling trunk chests--must go now I have a few black color (Did not buy here, bought in the states) ROLLING trunk chests w/ wheels. These are great for getting organized. You could also use them for storing holiday decor, organizing a shed or patio area. We are downsizing what we have now for our big move. We have no use for them anymore, and I would like to see them put to great use. I'm only asking \$25 each trunk CHEST. I ask that only serious buyers please call us. If we are not home, please leave name/number. I'm sorry I do not have pictures please come see in person. Please call 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - White sofa in great condition w/pilows, asking \$500 Please call 1-305-537-5255

Yokota - Light brown colored couch and loveseat set. In great condition, no tears or stains. Bought a new set so we don't have room for it. \$250 OBO. Call 1-214-261-6458

Furniture/Appliances 511

Yokota, Japan - Microwave works great (very strong), nothing wrong with it just upgraded to a new microwave asking \$25. Please call 1-720-257-6781

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Yokohama/Yokosuka DSN: 243-4771
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Furniture/Appliances 511

Yokota, Japan - 2007 Mitsubishi Japanese Conventional/ Microwave Co Model RO-B1C, Microwave Cooks at 600 and 1000 Watts, Conventional Oven up to 300 degrees Celsius, inside measures 16x12x9 inches and can accommodate around an 18 lb Turkey, perfect for off base homes w/o ovens. Easy to use and reliable can cook anything in it. Asking \$200 Please call 080-6596-9611

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - Beautiful House Plant Healthy house plant, water once a week and the plant will live forever. Asking \$30 Please call 080-6596-9611

Yokota, Japan - Full/Queen Size Comforter Set-exc. shape really nice Full/Queen Size Bedding set excellent shape. I just took everything 2 the cleaners, so whoever buys this set, it's all ready to go. This set does not have a wild, bold design. It's solid, natural, neutral colors 2 go w/ just about any decor. It is chenille feel w/ suede trim (suede trim is on valance/tie backs for curtains). Includes: Comforter, Sealy Best Fit Sheet SET, 2 Curtain Panels, 2 Tie Backs, Valance, Decor Pillow, Bed Skirt, super soft Berkshire blanket, pillow shams, square pillow cover, & much more. (I paid 2 send the curtains/valance back 2 states to have drapery hook option installed). Paid quite a bit 4 this set, plus 2 have drapery hook option installed, & 2 have it all cleaned at cleaners. Only asking \$160 Call 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - Large set of dishes I have a full set of dishes for a setting of 8. Includes large, medium, and small saucer plates, small and regular sized bowls, coffee mugs, and a serving bowl Asking \$75 OBO Please call hummershea@att.net

Home Electronics 570

Yokota - AMAZING LEAPSTER SET W/ 7 GAMES. \$120/make offer. Games have different difficulty levels and applies from 3 - 10 year olds. Over \$290 worth of stuff. Games alone are \$15-30 each!! Barely used, still in its original box complete with manuals. Contact 702-946-5985

Yokota - Brand New Nintendo Wii. Never opened, if interested call (949)258-6866 or 080 5698-6325 250.00 OBO

Yokota, Japan - 4GB iPod Nano, 3rd generation used it for a couple months and then bought an iPod Touch. It's been sitting around since then. Just like NEW! I don't have original headphones, but the black ones in the pictures work great! You can have the case too, it's black with brown trim inside is Belkin. Asking \$100 or Make an Offer! Email mullins318@yahoo.com me please!

Yokota, Japan - 50" Toshiba Plasma TV 50" Toshiba Plasma HDTV, bought last year, in mint condition, rarely turn on, great for a family home asking \$850 Please call 090-9968-9995

Yokota, Japan - DS Wii PS2 Games Looking to buy inexpensive games for DS Wii PS2 Reasonable price. Please call 210-547-9918

Yokota, Japan - Home Theater System new photo I have a Pioneer receiver, center speaker, subwoofer. They were all part of a theater in a box that I bought originally. I got rid of the satellite speakers, and put 2 mid size Sony speakers for front speakers. I then added 2 book shelf speakers for rear speakers. I would like to sell it all together. Although they are different brands they sound great together. The receiver puts out 1000 watts between the 5 speakers and subwoofer. Also the Sony speakers were just recently bought for over \$225 alone. E-mail skip592@hotmail.com for questions

Home Electronics 570

Yokota, Japan - Yamaha Home Subwoofer YST-SW320 Great subwoofer in like new condition, I just upgraded to a bigger speaker. Also comes with a monster cable. Give me a call 1-720-257-6781 or email knightson@hotmail.com if you have any questions. For specs please check out the Yamaha website <http://www.yamaha.com/yc/products/productdetail.html?CNTID=200490&CTID=5003300>

Yokota, Japan - Yamaha RX-V1400 Home Theater Receiver Awesome home theater receiver in like new condition. Only reason I'm selling is because I upgraded to a new Denon receiver. Never abused and have all packing material. Please give me a call or email if you have any questions. Asking \$200. Please call 1-720-257-6781. For specs please view the Yamaha website: http://www.audioreview.com/mfr/yamaha/a-v-receivers/rx-v1400/PRD_288782_2718rcr.aspx

Yokota - Philips 10.2" DVD player. Brand new in box, never been used. Sells for 250\$ in stores. This unit will play almost anything. DVDs, CDs, memory cards and flash drives. The reason for selling it is I got it for Christmas but I already have another one. \$200 obo. Contact 08031783849

Yokota - Selling Xbox games: \$3.00 each. Project Gotham Racing, SEGA GT 2002, AF Delta Storm, Brothers in Arms, Earned in Blood (live online enabled), Tom clancy's Splinter Cell Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3 (live online enabled). What a deal! Contact us now! My kids are trying to sell these so they can buy other games) Contact 901-273-9939

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Outdoor Living 775

Yokota - Gas Grill with 2 propane tanks. \$75. Call 080-3204-2513 or 813-200-9379.

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Pets 820

Atsugi - Need temporary foster home for loving cat. She is up to date on all shots, black and white short hair, about 1 year old. I no longer have a home where she can stay with me and am PCSing in April. I'd like to find a nice home for her to stay in until PCS, then I will take her with me. Please contact me immediately if you are interested. Cell: 080-5412-0143 Home: (707) 376-7120 E-mail: jonmcgough@hotmail.com OR c.tarissa@hotmail.com OR Jonathan.McGough@fe.navy.mil

Yokota - Free to a good home, 2 adult, male cats. Very affectionate and loving. I am PCSing and want to make sure they have a good home. 09060438502

Pets 820

Yokota, Japan - 2 Cats Need Loving Home I have 2 cats that need a good home. They aren't quite a years old, they are brothers, very loving. They have had their shots but are on the waiting list to get neutered due to limited slots available. I would like to keep them together if possible. They come with feed dish, 2 bags of food, toys, floor to ceiling cat condo, litter box and plenty of affection. I need to get them in a home ASAP. I hate to give them away, but I just don't have the time with 3 kids to take care of them. Please give my boys a good home. FREE! Please email maxx950@gmail.com

Zama - Free Six Saltwater tropical fish and live rock. Must have your own tank. Call for more info 267-6253

Photography 830

Yokota - Canon EF lenses I have the following for sale! Canon ef 28 F/2.8 225, Canon 28-135 f3.5 to 5.6 IS 200. All three are in great condition. 70-200 comes with lens hood. Upgraded to new L lenses so no need in my bag any more. Contact 08037553434

Yokota, Japan - Kodak Easy Share V610 Camera with lots of extras the camera is in excellent condition. It comes with camera, 512 MB memory stick, original box, software, user's manual; it also comes with a camera kit. The kit includes docking station, leather carrying case & lens cleaner and cleaning cloth. It also comes with a HP photo smart 7760 photo printer with about 70% of ink left. The printer also has original box. Asking \$300 OBO Jason Home 713-490-0578 Cell 08032519808

Homes/Apts for Rent - US 866

3 bdr/2 bth 1,460 square foot 2-story SFH for rent in Newport News, VA. Located close to CNU, Ft Eustis, Langley AFB, and Ft Monroe. Pets okay. Monthly rent is \$1,125. Please call Julie Zollner at 080-3381-6206 (cell) or 263-8437 (home).

Toys 945

Yokosuka, Japan - Team Losi Nitro 8T 1/8 scale RC Truggy I have a Losi 8T truggy that I am selling. It comes as a roller with OS 28xx and Mach 427 that have been modified by Pro-Mod RC. It has a lot of extra parts, stussie box, and glow igniter. You will have to buy radio gear and servos. \$300 OBO I am at Yokota will meet half way. Please call 720-257-6843

Sporting Goods 980

Yokota - Edge 490 Recumbent Exercise Bike \$125.00. Located on the East Side, so you'll need a way to get it to your home. I cannot deliver, though it should fit in most trunks with the lid bungied down. Contact 404-478-4611

Yokota, Japan - Weider weight set plus more Weider bar bell and dumb bell set with screw on weight holders, 4 bars 16 plates; Aussie set with two bars and 8 plates chrome \$40 for both. Call 6143584904

Miscellaneous 1040

Yokota - all weight loss pills for sale! 54 caplets left in the bottle; only used 6. Paid \$60; asking \$45 obo. Contact griffisg130@hotmail.com

Yokota - ER Seasons 1-6 \$60. Only watched one time. Excellent condition. Paid at least \$30 per season. Contact 615-345-8867.

Miscellaneous 1040

Yokota - Boxed DVD set. 24 Hours - Complete Seasons 1-5 Orig. \$220 -- urs for \$130 whole set. Planet Earth -- 5-Disc exploration from of seas, forest, mountains etc. -- shots from Discovery and National Geographic Orig \$65 -- urs for \$25 whole set. Friends --Complete Seasons 1-10 -- I hate to see this go but am trying to get rid of excess w/ for PCS move. Orig. \$249 -- urs for \$170. Contact 702-946-5985

Yokota, Japan - 98 Custom Pro W/E-Grip + Cyclone feed RIPS! This Custom Pro is loaded with all you need. E-Grip, Cyclone feed, Camo kit 14inch Evil Driver barrel, 20oz cO2, parts kit, 2 O-Ring kits Quick load hopper, X-7 style gravity hopper, BB, Perfect for TAMA. Asking \$ 2 0 0 e m a i l jhgerber@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - new Jessica Simpson sapphire clutch brand new still with tags on! Add pop to a pantsuit or glam to a cocktail dress with this slim little clutch by Jessica Simpson. Made with a shimmering snake-embossed synthetic upper, the Sapphire features an easy fold-over closure with secure magnetic snap tab. The checkered-lined interior includes cell phone pouch and zippered pocket for change, tokens and other small items. Whip stitched detailing at the piping and the brushed metal buckle detail on the flap offer textural appeal to this versatile bag. Original: \$70 Asking \$40/make offer please call 702-946-5985

Yokota, Japan - Tippmann 98 Custom W/Rsp Tng LOADED! Drop forward, Camo kit 11 1/2 barrel 20oz CO2, Ricochet 2k loader, 2 O-ring kits and BB. Excellent for woods or speedball asking \$150 Please email jhgerber@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Video games, printers, car audio wire kit I have PS3/360 games for sale. I have Computer games for sale. I have 2 printers (Lexmark, canon) for sale, as is with CD's and whatever ink is left. I have no gauge power/ground and fuse holder, with fuse for a car subwoofer. If you are interested send an email to skip592@hotmail.com

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Hope for rescue of men lost at sea fading

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO
The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The father of an NFL player among three men lost at sea says the Coast Guard's hopes are waning of finding survivors off the Florida Gulf Coast.

Bruce Cooper says he still has hope. But the Coast Guard told families privately that officials weren't optimistic because of the timeframe and possibility of hypothermia.

Cooper's son is Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper. The search for him, free-agent lineman Corey Smith and former college player William Bleakley entered its third day Tuesday.

The Coast Guard wouldn't publicly say whether they thought the men were still alive.

But officials did say the search was aided by information from Nick Schuyler, who was rescued Monday clutching the boat's hull.

Schuyler says the men put on life vests after the boat overturned Saturday.

Coast Guard Capt. Timothy Close says Schuyler, told interviewers that the boat

capsized as the four friends were pulling up the anchor Saturday evening.

They swam under the boat and were able to recover their life vests.

They stayed together for some time and it remains unclear when and how they got separated.

The men face dwindling odds of survival after more than two days in the water, though their size and good health could help them fend off hypothermia, authorities said.

Coast Guard officials wouldn't speculate on the men's chances of being rescued alive as the search continued Tuesday morning. There was some hope, even though hypothermia can set in after 18 hours in 64-degree water. Water temperatures were in the mid- to upper-60s.

"With all of these men being past, present football players, they do have a much larger physique than a lot of people," Petty Officer Robert Simpson said. "So their odds are going to be definitely in their favor."

Schuyler was conscious but appeared weak as he was loaded onto a stretcher Monday. His father, Stuart Schuyler, said the former University of South Florida

player was bruised and dehydrated but "looks OK." He said his son was in serious but stable condition.

Schuyler was discovered 35 miles off Clearwater.

"He was able to help us refine our search a little bit," Close said on ABC's "Good Morning America" Tuesday. He said Schuyler told them where the boat was anchored and when it capsized.

The men's families have said they had life vests and flares aboard.

Schuyler's mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her he survived by thinking about how he didn't want her to go to his funeral.

The family's joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends.

"We still have three men missing, and we're not going to talk too much until we find these guys," said his father, Stuart Schuyler. "We're all praying for them. These guys are all very close friends."

Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean but the area being searched was much smaller since they found Schuyler, Close said.

Bruce Cooper told Fox News in a phone interview Tuesday that his family was holding on to hope and optimism. He and other family members were in Tampa awaiting news on the search.

"He's just a fighter. He's an undersize linebacker ... and he just doesn't back down. He accepts the fight, and I know that's what he's doing in the water. He's not quitting," Cooper said about his son.

Smith's family had to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., after a snow storm in the East made getting a flight impossible, said Yolanda Newbill, one of Smith's sisters. She said they have been in contact with the Coast Guard every few hours since the search began.

James Allen, a marine safety consultant who once worked search and rescue operations with the Coast Guard, said the chances of finding survivors diminish after people have been in the water three days.

Survivors have been found who were floating for days, but he added "you just can't swim forever."

NFL briefs

Seahawks sign Houshmandzadeh; Ward to Bucs

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Free-agent receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh has signed with the Seattle Seahawks.

Houshmandzadeh caught 204 passes in the last two seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals. Seattle's top receiver last year was Bobby Engram with 47 catches.

The Seahawks had seven injured wide receivers last season and finished with a 4-12 record.

Houshmandzadeh teamed with Chad Johnson to give the Bengals one of the best receiving tandems in the NFL in 2005, when Cincinnati had its only winning record in the past 18 years.

Reports say the deal is for \$40 million over five years.

RB Ward signs with Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, retooling offensively after missing the playoffs, signed free agent running back Derrick Ward to a four-year, \$17 million contract Tuesday.

The former New York Giants backup rushed for 1,025 yards and two touchdowns in 2008 while sharing playing time with Brandon Jacobs, who also gained over 1,000 yards. The Bucs cleared room in the backfield for the 28-year-old when they released Warlick Dunn last week.

In five pro seasons, Ward has rushed for 1,750 yards and five TDs. He also has 69 receptions for 576 yards and one TD.

Tampa Bay entered the free agent signing period about \$61 million beneath the salary cap after cutting Dunn, linebackers Derrick Brooks and Cato June and receivers Ike Hilliard and Joey Galloway.

Under new coach Raheem Morris, the club has made improving the offense a priority. The Bucs placed the franchise

tag on receiver Antonio Bryant, assuring him a \$9.88 million salary next season, and last weekend re-signed free agent receiver Michael Clayton to a five-year deal worth up to \$26 million.

Workout refusal leads Redskins to cut DE Taylor

WASHINGTON — After a year of "Dancing With the Stars" and struggling with the Washington Redskins, Jason Taylor wanted some family time.

He's got his wish.

The former NFL defensive player of the year's disappointing turn in the nation's capital came to an end Monday when he was cut by the Redskins for refusing to commit to the team's offseason workout program.

The Redskins wanted to add a workout clause to Taylor's hefty contract, but the 34-year-old defensive end declined. The clause would have required Taylor to take part in 25 days of offseason workouts.

"He wanted to spend the offseason with his family," said Taylor's agent, Gary Wichard. "He just kind of chose family over going up there."

The flap is reminiscent of last year, when Taylor clashed with the Miami Dolphins for competing in "Dancing With the Stars" rather than working out with the team in the offseason. Taylor then was shipped by the Dolphins to the Redskins.

That meant Taylor spent virtually the entire year apart from his wife and children in Florida.

"He had been away for four months in Los Angeles, then he got back to Miami and then he got traded," Wichard said. "He wanted to spend time with his three kids."

With Taylor gone, the Redskins are expected to focus on re-signing defensive ends Daniels and

Demetric Evans, who became free agents last week.

Titans sign WR Washington, DT Haye

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — After losing All-Pro Albert Haynesworth to a record-setting contract last week, the Tennessee Titans dipped into the free agent market for two players.

The Titans signed Pittsburgh Steelers free-agent receiver Nate Washington to a six-year deal on Monday, and added former Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive tackle Jovan Haye with a four-year deal.

The Titans are hopeful Washington is ready to step into a more prominent role after being third on the Steelers depth chart behind Hines Ward and Santonio Holmes.

The 25-year-old Washington, who caught 40 passes for 631 yards for the Steelers last year, will be counted to replace Brandon Jones, who left for San Francisco as a free agent, and start alongside holdover Justin Gage.

Haye is returning home in a sense, having played college football in Nashville at Vanderbilt University. He spent the past three years with Tampa Bay where his best season came in 2007 with six sacks and 68 tackles.

Dolphins release DE Holliday

MIAMI — Defensive end Vonnie Holliday was released Monday after four seasons with the Miami Dolphins, who have lost three defensive starters this offseason.

At 33, Holliday was the Dolphins' second-oldest player. He started 15 games for the AFC East champions in 2008 and led the team's defensive linemen with 46 tackles. He was third on the team with 3.5 sacks.

"These types of decisions are always difficult ones, especially

with someone like Vonnie, who has been a role model both on the field and off it," general manager Jeff Ireland said in a statement. "He was one of our captains last year and was a proven leader, not just in his tenure with the Dolphins, but throughout his 11-year career."

Holliday was scheduled to make \$2.8 million in base salary in 2009 and was due a \$1.5 million roster bonus Tuesday.

He started at end in the Dolphins' 3-4 scheme last year and was joined up front by rookie Kendall Langford and nose tackle Jason Ferguson, the oldest player on the team.

Miami has already lost free safety Renaldo Hill and cornerback Andre Goodman, who both signed with Denver as unrestricted free agents.

Former Raiders C Grove signs with Dolphins

MIAMI — Center Jake Grove has signed a multiyear contract with the Miami Dolphins, which could mean a shake-up in their line.

Grove, who signed Tuesday, became an unrestricted free agent after spending his first five seasons with the Oakland Raiders. He's expected to challenge for a starting job with the Dolphins, who might move center Samson Satele to guard.

Satele has been Miami's starting center since the beginning of his rookie season in 2007.

Grove started 46 games at center and guard for Oakland, and he started 12 games at center last year. He was drafted in the second round in 2004.

Lions sign WR Bryant Johnson to 3-year deal

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions signed free agent receiver Bryant Johnson to a three-year contract on Monday,

adding the former first-round draft pick to complement rising star Calvin Johnson.

The Lions traded receiver Roy Williams during last season and released receiver Mike Furrey last month.

Bryant Johnson had 45 receptions for 546 yards and three touchdowns last year, his only season with the San Francisco 49ers, after five seasons with the Arizona Cardinals.

He has 255 receptions for 3,221 yards and 12 TDs in 93 career games. Arizona drafted him out of Penn State with the 17th overall pick in the 2003 draft.

Giants GM: Team might welcome Burress back

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New York Giants general manager Jerry Reese says Plaxico Burress would be welcomed back if he can straighten out his legal problems and get his life in order.

Burress' future is cloudy because he faces illegal weapons charges relating to a self-inflicted wound in November. He could get 3½ years in prison if convicted. His case is scheduled to be heard at the end of the month.

Cowboys sign Stewart

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys have signed free agent linebacker Matt Stewart to a one-year contract.

Stewart, who signed Tuesday, was out of football in 2008 after getting released by Arizona in the final roster cuts before the season started.

The 29-year-old Stewart was a fourth-round pick by Atlanta in 2001 and played four seasons with the Falcons. He spent the next three seasons with Cleveland.

In 93 career games, Stewart has 357 tackles, eight sacks and an interception.

49ers courting rival Cardinals' Warner

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kurt Warner is being courted by an eager division rival of the Arizona Cardinals.

The San Francisco 49ers sent a private jet Monday for the two-time MVP quarterback, who traveled from Phoenix to the 49ers' Silicon Valley training complex. He underwent a physical exam and had a meeting with their top brass.

Warner led the Cardinals to the Super Bowl last season, but became a free agent when he didn't re-sign with the club. Arizona has offered a two-year, \$20 million contract to Warner, but he's apparently seeking a deal worth at least \$14 million per season.

For the right offer, the former St. Louis Rams star seems willing to leave Arizona, his home for the past four seasons. The 49ers have a new coach and a decent amount of talent, but no proven starting quarterback — so they rolled out the red-and-gold carpet for Warner.

"It's still up in the air," San Francisco general manager Scot McCloughan said while leaving the complex about 30 minutes before Warner departed in a stretch Range Rover limousine. "We're very excited he's willing to come visit us and possibly be a 49er. ... He's a very classy guy, and you can see why he's been so successful in his career, the way he carries himself."

NFC West rival San Francisco finished just two games behind the Cardinals in second place last season, and the club has enough cap room to accommodate War-



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Cardinals quarterback and two-time NFL MVP Kurt Warner met with the top brass of the San Francisco 49ers, who are in hot pursuit of the free-agent quarterback.

ner's salary wishes. Among the Niners' many obstacles would be enticing Warner, who will be 38 years old by training camp, to uproot his large family again.

After flying into San Jose, Warner and his wife, Brenda, arrived at the 49ers' training complex shortly before lunchtime. He had lunch and a meeting with McCloughan and coach Mike Singletary before traveling to Stanford Hospital for his exam.

Warner returned to the complex in a Cadillac driven by 49ers athletic trainer Jeff

Ferguson at about 4 p.m. Warner mouthed the words "I'm not talking" through the window to reporters as they drove through a security gate.

The Warners were expected to fly home Monday night, but McCloughan and owner Jed York indicated they might have dinner plans or further discussions before he returned to Phoenix.

Warner proved he's still at the top of his talents last season. After claiming the Cardinals' starting job from Matt Lein-

art, Warner passed for 4,583 yards and 30 touchdowns, leading the franchise to its first division title since 1975. He also starred in four playoff games, completing 68 percent of his passes for 1,147 yards and 11 TDs.

Singletary has been unwilling to designate veteran Shaun Hill as his starter for next season even after Hill led San Francisco to five wins in its final seven games and a 7-9 record that knocked the interim tag off Singletary's title. Hill has been an effective quarterback over the past two seasons, going 7-3 as a starter, but he doesn't have the arm strength or pedigree that wows coaches.

Alex Smith, the injury-plagued former No. 1 draft pick, is working on restructuring his contract to stay with the 49ers, who'll release him if they can't reach a deal with a much lower base salary than the \$9 million in his current contract.

The 49ers might not be the ideal football fit for Warner, who would leave a lineup with star receivers Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin to join a run-based offense with no proven pass-catchers — although Warner's arrival might persuade longtime Rams teammate Isaac Bruce to put off retirement for another season.

San Francisco's biggest signing Monday also pointed to another reason Warner might not be perfectly suited for the Niners. Fullback Moran Norris signed a three-year contract to return to the 49ers, who have repeatedly said they plan to build a run-first offense around running back Frank Gore and new coordinator Jimmy Raye.

Both sides mum on lopsided-looking Cassel deal

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli pulled off a big deal in his first major act as Kansas City's general manager, landing quarterback Matt Cassel and linebacker Mike Vrabel for a second-round draft pick.

Not a package of draft picks, not the second-rounder and another player, not even with cash thrown in. A potentially franchise-building quarterback and a starting linebacker for one second-round draft pick. That's it.

The obvious question is, how did he get so much for so little?

Sadly, there's still no answer.

Two days after the trade with New England was announced, the Chiefs were again mum on what seems like a monumentally lopsided deal.

Pioli? Unavailable. Coach Todd Haley?

Evasive. Cassel? On speaker phone for his introduction to the Kansas City media. Vrabel? Also not available.

"I won't get into specifics of that. I'm glad we have both players on the team," Haley said Monday.

That's it. No discussion of how the trade came together, not even a "we got a good deal." It was calculated, tidy, somewhat mysterious. In other words, very Patriots-like.

Of course, that's no surprise. As vice president of player personnel in New England, Pioli helped turn the Patriots into a dynasty, gathered all the pieces for coach Bill Belichick to win three Super Bowls.

Those ties to New England clearly played some role in the trade to get Cassel and Vrabel. How much? It's hard to tell since no one's talking about the deal.

Cassel was talking, but not in person and not about the trade. Calling in from some-

where in Kansas City, he was thrilled at the chance to be the man after eight years of being the man behind the man.

"I've been working really, really hard for a long time, and I finally had an opportunity last year and got a taste of what it's like to be out there and play and be on the field every snap," he said. "I'm excited that I'll have the opportunity to do the same thing here and try to get this thing going and get on the right track and win ball games."

On paper, the Chiefs clearly got the better end of the deal.

Cassel, after three years as Tom Brady's backup and five more on the bench at Southern California, proved to be a more-than-capable starter, leading the Patriots to an 11-5 record after Brady suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener against Kansas City.

Cassel, who threw for 3,693 yards and 21 touchdowns, would have become a free agent

in the offseason, so the Patriots hit him with the franchise tag as insurance in case Brady didn't fully recuperate. With Brady's recovery going well, New England opted to trade Cassel instead of paying the 2007 MVP's backup \$14.65 million for one year.

"He's a guy with just one year of experience, but he's coming from a good system and a place where they've done a good job of winning games in the NFL," Haley said. "Anytime you can get a player that's been around winning, I think that's a good thing."

Cassel for a second-round draft pick probably would be seen as a steal. Adding Vrabel, too? That seems like tunnel-under-the-floor bank-heist stuff — again, on paper.

The Patriots, whose only comments on the trade were in a statement issued Saturday, cleared \$4.3 million from the salary cap by trading Vrabel

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SCOREBOARD

Correction

The Feb. 26 Home Team feature on Osan American's Far East Girls Class A Tournament success should have identified Celine Baldevia as the winner of the Class A Volleyball Tournament's Best Setter award.

Sports on AFN

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NBA: Phoenix at Orlando (dld).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: North Carolina at Virginia Tech.
AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.—NBA: Milwaukee at Cleveland.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Dallas.
AFN-Xtra, 11:30 p.m.—College basketball: Kansas at Texas Tech.
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Marquette at Pittsburgh (dld).
AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—NBA: Phoenix at Miami (dld).

Friday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—Baseball: World Baseball Classic, Japan vs. China (dld).
AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Tennessee at South Carolina.
AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.—NBA: Dallas at New Orleans.
AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Penn State.
AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Portland at Denver.
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Providence at Villanova (dld).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Dayton at Xavier, Ohio (dld).
AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: California at Arizona (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro baseball

MLB exhibition

Monday's games

N.Y. Yankees 5, Houston 5, tie
 Tampa Bay 8, St. Louis 5
 Baltimore 5, Boston 3
 Philadelphia 12, Toronto 7
 Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1
 Detroit 7, Florida Southern 1
 Texas 8, Cleveland 7
 Arizona 9, Chicago Cubs 1
 San Diego 4, Milwaukee 3
 Seattle 5, Chicago White Sox 3
 Kansas City 14, San Francisco 5
 L.A. Angels 12, Colorado 3

Tuesday's games

Canada vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
 Panama vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Italy vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.
 Venezuela vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
 Cincinnati vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
 Puerto Rico vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
 Houston vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.
 Netherlands vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
 Dominican Republic vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla.
 St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

USA vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.
 Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix
 L.A. Dodgers vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
 Oakland vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.
 Cleveland vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
 Arizona vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.

Wednesday's games

Italy vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla.
 Panama vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
 USA vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
 Venezuela vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Canada vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
 N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Puerto Rico vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.
 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
 Dominican Republic vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
 Australia vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
 Kansas City vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
 South Africa vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
 San Francisco vs. L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix
 Chicago White Sox (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix
 Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.
 Netherlands vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla.
 Mexico vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
 Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Chicago White Sox (ss) at Las Vegas

College baseball

Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with records through March 1 and previous ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball America):

	Record	Pvs
1. Louisiana State	7-0	2
2. Texas	9-0	4
3. North Carolina	7-1	3
4. Texas A&M	7-2	1
5. UC Irvine	5-2	5
6. Baylor	6-2	6
7. Cal State Fullerton	5-2	7
8. Arizona State	8-1	8
9. Rice	5-2	10
10. Georgia	8-0	12
11. San Diego	6-3	11
12. Pepperdine	5-2	17
13. Texas Christian	5-1	23
14. Mississippi	3-3	13
15. Miami	6-1	NR
16. Oklahoma	7-3	16
17. Kent State	5-0	18
18. Georgia Tech	6-1	20
19. Arizona St.	4-1	19
20. Coastal Carolina	6-1	NR
21. Arkansas	5-1	21
22. Florida State	6-1	22
23. Oklahoma State	6-1	25
24. Oregon State	4-2	NR
25. Cal Poly	6-1	NR

Collegiate Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Baseball poll with records through March 1, points and previous ranking. Voting is done by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Louisiana St.	7-0	496	1
2. Georgia	8-0	494	3
3. North Carolina	7-1	493	2
4. Texas	9-0	490	8
5. Arizona St.	8-1	484	4
6. Florida St.	6-1	481	5
7. Rice	5-2	478	10
8. Texas A&M	7-2	477	6
9. Georgia Tech	6-1	475	9
10. Miami, Fla.	6-1	473	14
11. Texas Christian	5-1	469	16
12. Cal. St. Fullerton	5-2	466	17
13. Oklahoma St.	6-1	465	11
14. Baylor	6-2	462	13
15. U.C. Irvine	5-2	459	15
16. Coastal Carolina	6-1	455	18
17. Cal Poly	6-1	452	—
18. South Carolina	4-0	449	—
19. Clemson	5-1	448	25
20. Florida	5-3	445	12
21. Mississippi	3-3	437	22
22. Pepperdine	5-2	435	23
23. Lamar	9-1	432	—
24. East Carolina	5-1	431	—
25. Ohio St.	7-0	430	30
26. Mississippi St.	8-1	428	30
27. Oklahoma	7-3	427	20
28. Michigan	7-2	426	28
29. Kentucky	4-2	425	29
30. San Diego	6-3	420	27

Monday's scores

EAST	
Chestnut Hill 5-2, Mansfield 4-6	
Ohio Northern 7, Widener 2	
Texas-Pan American at N.J. Tech, ppd., snow	
SOUTH	
Armstrong Atlantic 7, Francis Marion 6	
North Georgia 3, Lander 2	
Rhode Island 12, Fairfield 6	
St. Augustine at Paine, ppd., weather	
Susquehanna 16, Maryland 6	
Thiel 12, Johnson & Wales 4	
MIDWEST	
Grand Valley St. 12-6, Neb.-Omaha 5-1	
SOUTHWEST	
Iowa Wesleyan 4, Oklahoma City 3	
NW Oklahoma 7-3, Sterling 6-6	

Boxing

Fight schedule

March 6

At Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Conn., Delvin Rodriguez, Danbury, Conn., vs. Shamone Alvarez, Atlantic City, N.J., IBF welterweight title eliminator.

March 7

At Mile High Event Center, Commerce City, Colo., Rob Frankel, Denver, vs. Ricardo Dominguez, Mexico, 10, lightweight.
 At HP Pavilion, San Jose, Calif., Victor Ortiz, Oxnard, Calif., vs. Mike Arnaoutov, Atlantic City, N.J., 12, for Ortiz's WBO-

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Reassigned C Kiel Thibault to their minor league camp.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with RHP Manny Acosta, RHP Jeff Bennett, RHP Blaine Boyer, RHP Buddy Carlyle, RHP Jorge Campillo, RHP Charlie Morton, RHP Peter Moylan, INF Tramel Escobar, INF Martin Prado and OF Gregor Blanco on one-year contracts.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Renewed the contract of OF Hunter Pence.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed C Cheikh Samb to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ARIZONA CARDINALS—S Keith Lewis to a two-year contract. Re-signed P Ben Graham to a two-year contract and QB Brian St. Pierre to a one-year contract.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Re-signed LB Darryl Blackstock and DL Orien Harris.
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed LB Andra Davis.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed WR Bryant Johnson to a three-year contract.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Released DE Vonnie Holliday.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed TE Chris Baker. Re-signed OL Russ Hochstein.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Re-signed FB Moran Norris to a three-year contract.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed DT Colin Cole to a multi-year contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with WR Nate Washington and DT Jovan Haye.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Released DE Jason Taylor.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NHL—Suspended Dallas F Steve Ott one game for gouging Anaheim F Travis Moen in the eye during a Feb. 28 game. Suspension was served on March 1.

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Traded D Nicolas Havelid to New Jersey for D Anssi Salmela. Recalled D Grant Lewis from Chicago (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Placed LW Jason Chimera on injured reserve, retroactive to Feb. 24.

DALLAS STARS—Reassigned F Raymond Savada to Manitoba (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS—Recalled F Aaron Downey and D Jonathan Ericsson from Grand Rapids (AHL). Assigned F Darren Helm and F Ville Leino to Grand Rapids.

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Recalled F Oscar Moller from Manchester (AHL).

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Signed F Andrew Conboy to a three-year contract. Recalled D Ryan O'Byrne from Hamilton (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS—Assigned F Mark Bell to Hartford (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled C Kyle Turris from San Antonio (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Assigned F Jay Beagle to Hershey (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS—Traded D Chris Leitch to San Jose for allocation money and an international slot.

COLLEGE

ASHLAND—Announced the retirement of men's basketball coach Roger Lyons.
CENTRAL STATE, OHIO—Will not renew the contract of women's basketball coach Patricia Tramble.

WASHINGTON & LEE—Announced the resignation of assistant football coach David Hanna.

NABO-USBK light welterweight titles: James Kirilenko, Austin, Texas, vs. Joel Julio, Miami, 10, light middleweights; Robert Guerrero, Gilroy, Calif., vs. Daud Cino Yordan, Indonesia, 10, super featherweights.

March 12

At Tokyo, Oscar Larios, Mexico, vs. Takahiro Aoh, Japan, 12, for Larios' WBC featherweight title.

At Hyogo, Japan, Hozumi Hasegawa, Japan, vs. Vusi Malinga, South Africa, 12, for Hasegawa's WBC bantamweight title.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 1, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (67)	27-2	1,792	2
2. North Carolina (3)	25-3	1,678	4
3. Pittsburgh (1)	26-3	1,612	1
4. Oklahoma	26-3	1,576	3
5. Memphis (1)	26-3	1,543	5
6. Louisville	23-5	1,462	6
7. Duke	24-5	1,340	7
8. Michigan St.	23-5	1,302	9
9. Kansas	24-5	1,190	15
10. Wake Forest	22-5	1,158	13
11. Villanova	23-6	913	10
12. LSU	25-4	894	18
13. Marquette	23-6	860	8
14. Gonzaga	23-5	837	17
15. Missouri	24-5	795	11
16. Washington	22-7	704	21
17. Xavier	23-5	629	19
18. Clemson	22-6	564	12
19. Purdue	22-7	545	16
20. UCLA	22-7	497	22
21. Arizona St.	21-7	347	14
22. Butler	25-4	302	24
23. Illinois	23-7	287	20
24. Florida St.	22-7	272	23
25. Syracuse	21-8	99	—

Others receiving votes: Creighton 52, BYU 41, Utah 22, Saint Mary's, Calif. 13, Dayton 11, West Virginia 10, Davidson 9, Texas 9, California 8, Providence 7, South Carolina 7, Washington St. 4, Arizona 3, Oklahoma St. 2, American U. 1, Boston College 1, Rhode Island 1, Utah St. 1.

Monday's men's scores

EAST

Texas-Pan American at N.J. Tech, ppd., snow

SOUTH

Alabama St. 90, Texas Southern 73
 Bethune-Cookman 64, Winston-Salem 49

Davidson 90, Elon 78
 Hampton 59, N. Carolina A&T 58
 MVSU 62, Grambling St. 42
 Norfolk St. 85, Howard 71

Prairie View 82, Alabama A&M 80
 S. Carolina St. 78, Florida A&M 69
 Savannah St. 69, N.C. Central 64
 The Citadel 74, Georgia Southern 53
 Wofford 80, Furman 55

MIDWEST

Chicago St. 95, Houston Baptist 92
 Villanova 77, Notre Dame 60

SOUTHWEST

Jackson St. 75, Ark.-Pine Bluff 66
 Langston 98, Bacone 89

FAR WEST

Texas 73, Baylor 57

TOURNAMENT

Boise St. 104, New Mexico St. 92
Conference Carolinas Tournament
First Round
 Belmont Abbey 89, Coker 80

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 1 and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Boston Univ. (44)	25- 5-4	994	1
2. Notre Dame (6)	27- 5-3	956	2
3. Michigan	26-10- 0	888	3
4. Northeastern	22- 8-4	850	4
5. Denver	20-10-4	763	5
6. North Dakota	21-11-4	716	8
7. Vermont	19- 8-5	689	9
8. Miami	19-10-5	627	7
9. New Hampshire	18- 9-5	562	12
10. Princeton	20- 9-0	549	6
11. Yale	20- 7-2	536	11
12. Cornell	18- 7-4	502	10
13. Colorado College	16-10-9	331	13
14. Ohio State	20-12-4	324	15
15. St. Lawrence	19-11-4	316	17
16. Minnesota-Duluth	16-10-8	241	14
17. Minnesota	14-11-7	205	18
18. St. Cloud State	18-14-2	141	19
19. Wisconsin	16-14-4	112	16
20. Boston College	15-12-5	89	NR

Others receiving votes: Air Force 56, Mass.-Lowell 22, RIT 16, Dartmouth 6, Minnesota State 5, Alaska 4.

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 1, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (45)	29-0	1,125	1
2. Stanford	24-4	1,043	3
3. Oklahoma	25-3	999	2
4. Maryland	24-5	971	5
5. Baylor	23-4	927	6
6. Auburn	27-2	915	7
7. Louisville	26-3	887	8
8. Duke	20-4	806	10
9. California	23-4	743	4
10. Texas A&M	22-5	731	12
11. North Carolina	25-5	710	9
12. Florida St.	24-6	603	11
13. Ohio St.	24-6	603	14
14. Pittsburgh	21-6	434	15
15. Texas	20-8	408	16
16. Xavier	23-5	363	13
17. S. Dakota St.	22-7	324	21
18. Arizona St.	22-6	307	24
19. Tennessee	20-9	302	18
20. Notre Dame	20-7	291	23
21. Florida	23-6	268	17
22. Vanderbilt	21-8	217	19
23. Iowa St.	21-7	212	25
24. Virginia	22-8	194	22
25. Bowling Green	25-2	74	—

Others receiving votes: Kansas St. 63, LSU 27, Middle Tennessee 26, Wis.-Green Bay 12, DePaul 10, Georgia Tech 9, Marist 7, Michigan St. 7, Va. Commonwealth 2, Florida Gulf Coast 1, Gonzaga 1, Purdue 1, San Diego St. 1, Temple 1.

Monday's women's scores

EAST

Connecticut 69, Rutgers 59
 Fairleigh Dickinson 54, Long Island U. 39

Monmouth, N.J. 67, Cent. Connecticut St. 51

Mount St. Mary's, Md. 71, Bryant 68
 Pitt.-Johnstown 62, Wheeling Jesuit 59
 Pittsburgh 79, St. John's 60
 Quinnipiac 77, Wagner 65

Sacred Heart 60, St. Francis, NY 51
 Seton Hall 64, Georgetown 54
 South Florida 52, Villanova 50
 St. Francis, Pa. 74, Robert Morris 58
 Syracuse 78, Providence 72

SOUTH

Sports briefs

Agitator Avery back in NHL with Rangers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bad boy Sean Avery is back with the New York Rangers.

In a move weeks in the making, the Rangers claimed the controversial forward off re-entry waivers from the Dallas Stars on Tuesday. New York is set to give Avery what could amount to his last chance to resurrect his NHL career. He could be in the lineup as soon as Thursday on the road against the New York Islanders.

Avery spent the past month with the Rangers' Hartford AHL affiliate while remaining property of the Stars. He hasn't played in the NHL since he was suspended in December for making a crude remark about other hockey players dating his former girlfriends.

Avery served a six-game ban and completed treatment in a league counseling program, but the Stars made it clear he would never play for them again.

Dallas doesn't have an AHL affiliate, so the Rangers facilitated his move to Hartford. He was assigned there after all 30 NHL teams passed on him when he went through a first set of waivers.

New York will be responsible for half the money remaining on Avery's contract that runs through the next three seasons with a salary cap hit of more than \$3.8 million a year.

Avery left the Rangers after last year's playoffs for a four-year deal worth \$15.5 million with the Stars, who will pay the other half of the contract. Had a team claimed him before he went to Hartford, that club would have had to pay all of the remaining money.

Avery had three goals and seven assists in only 23 games for Dallas before being suspended by the NHL on Dec. 2 for comments he made hours before the Stars' road game against the Calgary Flames.

When suspended, the 28-year-old Avery told the Stars he needed help dealing with his anger. He completed a counseling program under the auspices of the league and the NHL Players' Association before being placed on Dallas' active roster for the purpose of being waived.

In six games after being sent to Hartford on Feb. 10, the noted agitator had two goals and one assist. Avery was placed on re-entry waivers Monday.

Avery spent the previous 1½ NHL seasons with the Rangers, and gave them an instant boost when he first arrived in a trade from Los Angeles in February 2007.

The Rangers advanced to the second round of the playoffs in both seasons Avery was on the team. They posted a 50-23-13 mark when he was in the lineup and dropped to 24-35-9 when he was sidelined by injury.

Avery's first stint with New York ended following Game 3 of a second-round series against Pittsburgh last year when he was hospitalized several days with a lacerated spleen. He then signed with the Stars in the summer.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Serena Williams returns the ball to sister Venus Williams during the championship match of the Billie Jean King Cup exhibition Monday in New York.

The Rangers have changed coaches since Avery last suited up for them. Tom Renney, who got the most out of Avery, was fired as coach last week as New York went through a slide that still threatens their playoff chances.

Renney was replaced by hard-edged coach John Tortorella, who while working for the Canadian sports television network TSN delivered harsh criticism of Avery at the time of his suspension.

"Enough is enough," Tortorella said then. "He's embarrassed himself, he's embarrassed the (Stars) organization, he's embarrassed the league and he's embarrassed his teammates, who have to look out for him. Send him home. He doesn't belong in the league."

Wild give Backstrom extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. — All-Star goalie Niklas Backstrom has signed a four-year, \$24 million contract extension with the Minnesota Wild.

The deal announced Tuesday runs through the 2012-13 season. The 31-year-old Backstrom would have been a free agent at the end of the season. He brought a record of 28-18-4 with a franchise-record six shutouts, a 2.24 goals against average and a .925 save percentage into Tuesday's game at Vancouver. Backstrom is the only current goalie whose statistics rank in the NHL's top five in each of those four categories.

Ott suspended one game

TORONTO — Dallas Stars forward Steve Ott was suspended one game by the NHL for attempting to injure Anaheim's Travis Moen during a fight Saturday.

Ott, who was suspended indefinitely a day later, did not play Sunday against Pittsburgh and is eligible to return Tuesday when the Stars play the Sharks in San Jose.

Ott and Moen squared off after the final horn sounded in Anaheim's 4-3 victory Saturday over Dallas. Ott's hand made contact with Moen's eye, which game officials ruled was an eye-gouge

and gave him a match penalty for attempting to injure.

MSU's Conboy turns pro after suspension for on-ice attack

MONTREAL — Andrew Conboy, suspended by Michigan State this season for an attack on a Michigan player, signed a three-year contract with the Montreal Canadiens on Monday.

Conboy opted to turn pro with Hamilton of the AHL, Montreal's top farm team, after he was suspended. The 6-foot-4, 200-pound left wing has one assist and four penalty minutes in seven games with the Bulldogs.

The 20-year-old Conboy and teammate Corey Tropp, a Buffalo Sabres prospect, were suspended for the rest of the regular season and the playoffs by the Spartans on Jan. 26 after an incident with less than 1 minute to play in a 5-3 loss to the Wolverines.

After Michigan's Steve Kampf knocked Tropp down with an open-ice hit, he was punched to the ice from behind by Conboy, and Tropp then swung his stick at the Anaheim prospect's head. Kampf was taken to hospital with a sprained neck, but there was no concussion.

Conboy was selected 142nd overall by Montreal in the 2007 draft. He had three goals, two assists and 76 penalty minutes in 21 games as a freshman at MSU.

AC Milan close to deal to keep Beckham

MILAN — A deal allowing David Beckham to extend his stay with AC Milan through the end of the Italian season is close but not yet complete, Milan chairman Adriano Galliani said Tuesday.

The former England captain joined Milan on a two-month loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy in January and was due to return to the Major League Soccer club next week. But Beckham wants to stay, and Galliani said the two sides are nearing a deal that would keep him at Milan until the summer.

"The deal is not done. We're working on the possibility of a loan until June 30, but no deal has been reached yet," Galliani said before boarding a plane for a friendly in Doha, Qatar, according to Milan's Web site.

Beckham has a five-year contract with the Galaxy worth \$32.5 million.

"I'm happy to be here with Milan and I reiterate that I would like to stay," Beckham said in Doha, according to Milan's Web site. "I've really been enjoying myself, I have extraordinary teammates, I'm playing for one of the strongest teams in the world and I'm coached by one of the best managers in the world."

Financial terms of the proposal are unknown, but the Galaxy earlier had asked for \$10 million from Milan for the outright purchase of Beckham. Milan had said it would pay no more than \$3 million, since he could become available anyway after the MLS season.

"The deal is getting more and

more concrete," Galliani told the club's TV station late Monday. "I hope we can arrange it so he stays on loan at least until June 30. Then he could return to Los Angeles and rejoin us in January."

"This is the direction we're aiming for," Galliani said. "It's complicated, as we've always known, but I'm still trying."

Beckham wants to remain with Milan to improve his chances of making England's team for next year's World Cup. He has played in 11 games with the Rossoneri, nine of them in Serie A in which he always started. He has two goals.

Serena tops Venus in first Billie Jean King Cup

NEW YORK — Serena Williams looked up at the rafters after beating her older sister Venus to win the Billie Jean King Cup. Following a short trip to her court-side chair, she walked to the center of the court, held her racket up and waved to the crowd.

Yes, the world's No. 1 player enjoyed her first tennis tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Serena wore down Venus in a 6-4, 6-3 victory Monday night, wowing the fans with her impressive power as women's tennis returned to the Garden after a nine-year absence.

"Definitely winning in Madison Square Garden, also with Billie Jean and this Cup is just really fun and it being the first time is really cool," said Serena Williams, who took home \$400,000 of the \$1.2 million purse.

"I'm really excited about that opportunity. Hopefully it will continue to open more doors for women's sports and women's tennis."

The Williams sisters gave the crowd of 12,026 exactly what it wanted by advancing to the championship, but Venus was never the same after she was broken in a marathon game in the first set.

Churchill Downs enacting new safety measures

Nearly a year after the first fatal injury at America's most famous horse race, Churchill Downs announced Monday it is beefing up safety requirements ahead of this year's Kentucky Derby.

The company is enacting more than 20 changes, ranging from enhanced drug testing to limits on whips and racing ages, in time for the start of the spring meet at its signature track in Louisville, Ky. Other Churchill-owned tracks, including Arlington Park in Arlington Heights, Ill.; Calder Race Course in Miami Gardens, Fla.; and Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in New Orleans, will follow by next year.

While some of the changes, such as testing for steroids, were already required under new state racing regulations, Churchill is taking the lead on other elements. For example, the dirt track at Churchill Downs will be subjected to rigorous performance testing using a robotic hoof device that aims to simulate the force and speed of a horse.

"We think we've always had one of the safest racetracks in the country, but we think these initiatives will make us even safer," said Jim Gates, general manager at Churchill Downs racetrack.

Racehorse safety was thrust into the national spotlight after the filly Eight Belles finished second in last year's Derby, only to pull up lame as she jogged past the finish line. An autopsy showed compound fractures in both front legs, and the horse had to be euthanized on the track.

Pistons await diagnosis on Al

DETROIT — The Detroit Pistons expect to find out how serious Allen Iverson's back injury is later this week.

Pistons president of basketball operations Joe Dumars said Monday the team will know more about Iverson's status on Wednesday after he is examined by doctors at Georgetown, where he starred in college.

Iverson will be out for a third straight game Tuesday night when Detroit hosts the Denver Nuggets, marking the return of Chauncey Billups.

While the Pistons have struggled since trading for Iverson early in the season, Billups has helped the Nuggets flourish.

Detroit is 22-28 with Iverson in the starting lineup and 29-29 overall this season.

Oden out at least a week

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland Trail Blazers center Greg Oden is expected to miss at least another week because of a bone chip in his left knee.

The Blazers say Oden's knee will be reevaluated in 7-10 days.

The 7-footer was hurt in a collision during a game at Golden State before the All-Star break. He missed the rookie challenge and seven games since.

The top pick in the 2007 draft sat out last season after microfracture surgery on his right knee. He missed six games early this season with a foot injury.

Oden has averaged nine points and just over seven rebounds in 39 games this season. Joel Przybilla has been starting in his place.

Michigan hockey coach Berenson gets 1-year deal

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan is extending the contract of veteran hockey coach Red Berenson.

The Regina, Saskatchewan, native played for the Wolverines in 1960-62 and is in his 25th season as their coach. Athletic director Bill Martin said Tuesday the "rolling one-year contract extension" takes effect Sept. 1.

The school says it will release financial details later.

Berenson's 1962-78 NHL career included stints with the Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers, St. Louis Blues and Detroit Red Wings.

He's led Michigan to 18 consecutive NCAA tournaments and national championships in 1996 and 1998. He has a career coaching record of 670-308-68.

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS



KRISTLE WEIRICK/Special to Stars and Stripes

Junior midfielder Taylor Russell, who helped lead Kadena to two Far East Class AA Tournament bronze medals, was initially supposed to move to California, and entertained the thought of quitting the sport when Zama became her destination.



BLAKE CORDER/Special to Stars and Stripes

Zama American striker Mallarie Ashliman, who scored 43 goals in her freshman season last year, was supposed to be back in Virginia this school year, but her father secured an extension that permitted Mallarie and her junior sister Aubrey to finish the soccer season for the Trojans.



RICHARD L. RODGERS/Special to Stars and Stripes

Junior striker Aubrey Ashliman, who scored 58 goals as a freshman and sophomore before missing much of last season after knee surgery, is looking forward to getting back on the pitch for the Trojans.

Happy returns for Trojans

Unexpected players boost Zama's title hopes

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

They weren't supposed to be in Trojans uniforms. They weren't supposed to be at Zama at all, for that matter.

Prolific scoring sisters Aubrey and Mallarie Ashliman were destined to return to Virginia and their traveling club team.

Taylor Russell? Back to her native California, or so it seemed last spring.

But circumstances changed. And here they are, in Zama American black, maroon and white jerseys, shin guards and spikes.

And from all indications, the reigning DODDS-Japan Soccer League and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools champions are primed for another title shot, maybe a deep run at a Far East Girls Class AA Soccer Tournament title.

"We have experience on both lines, plus the sisters, and what can you say about the sisters?" new coach Rogers Pitts said. "We have some quickness. We play both sides of the ball effectively."

And not one senior populates his roster. "We're fortunate as a DODDS school that we have this type of talent," Pitts said.

Already competitive was this Trojans lot, which the last two years under Vanessa Little rang up a 33-17-3 ledger, including top-eight Class AA finishes. Pitts indicated this team could exceed that.

For one, he returns his wings, sophomores Yuri Fisher and Eris Pitts, and junior three-year veteran center-midfielder Kristen Dulay. Sophomore Deanna Polaski is back in net. And anchoring that defense is junior transfer Katie Scully, new to Zama from Hawaii.

But the three players who weren't expected to be at Zama could just complete the Trojans' picture.

"I'm really excited," said Aubrey Ashliman, who scored 58 goals in parts of two seasons before knee surgery shelved her last spring.

Now back and healthy, she teams up front with Mallarie, who scored 43 goals last season.

"I think we're going to have a good team," Aubrey said. "We have girls who can play defense, offense, everywhere."

It's quite a turnaround from the fall, when going through physical therapy, she entertained thoughts of returning to Virginia. But by the time basketball season ended, she'd changed her mind.

"I thought we had a really good chance (to do well), so I wanted to stay and finish the season," Aubrey said. "I'm happy now."

The Ashlimans' father, Navy Cmdr. Monty Ashliman, commanding officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 102 at Naval Air Facility Atsugi near Zama, managed to secure enough extensions to ensure they would depart two days after the Class AA Tournament ends on May 22.

The prospect of hitting the pitch in tandem for a full season seemed to excite the sisters. "We've talked about it," Mallarie said, adding that the two used to play alongside each other in club and middle school ball. "She's really easy to work with."

For her part, Russell says she wanted to stay on Okinawa, where she helped the Kadena Panthers earn back-to-back Class AA bronze medals while scoring 19 goals and assisting on 16.

But her mother Kerry's job contract at Kadena ran out. The family considered returning to California, but eventually Kerry took a new post at Atsugi. So heartbroken was Russell upon learning she was leaving that she said: "I didn't want to play soccer any more."

"I miss my team," Russell said. "We had been building more and more with the team,

we were getting closer and especially with Far East on Okinawa the next two years. And I miss my coach (Hoa Nguyen) so much. He was always going to be there for us."

What may be the most difficult part for Russell is actually going back to Okinawa to play Far East at her former home.

"That's going to be really hard. That's going to be the worst," Russell said. "Maybe I'm going to want to go there and not come back."

Over time, resistance to taking the pitch as a Trojan melted, as Russell says she viewed the change as a learning opportunity.

"They're a good group of kids and it would be a good experience to learn to play with a new group of people," Russell said.

She'd played against the Ashlimans during Far East, and Russell says she welcomes the chance to be on the same side. "Knowing how well they play, it's definitely a great opportunity to play with them instead of against them, and maybe learn from them," she said.

Well before practice officially began Feb. 23, Russell says she spent time getting to know her teammates. "Since I've gotten to know the team more, I feel more comfortable and confident with it," she said.

Her teammates have been equally accepting. "We're all friends outside of soccer," Aubrey Ashliman said.

Now, with the season-opening matches beckoning at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, the three who weren't supposed to be at Zama and their teammates will get down to the business of translating their talent into victories.

"I think we have a pretty good chance if we all play well," Mallarie Ashliman said.

Coach Pitts agrees. "I thought we would be competitive, but now, I think we'll be really competitive," he said.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: orny@pstripes.osd.mil

Schedule

Japan

Boys soccer

Friday, March 6-Saturday, March 7
Kinnick at E.J. King, 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m.; Hiroshima International, Yokota and Zama at Perry, 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Girls soccer

Friday, March 6-Saturday, March 7
Edgren at Kinnick, 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m.; Hiroshima International, Yokota and Zama at Perry, 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Tuesday, March 10

ASIJ at CAJ, 5 p.m.; ISSH at Zama, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11

Seisen at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.

St. Maur at Kinnick, 5:30 p.m.

South Korea

Soccer

Division I

Wednesday, March 4
Osan at SFS; TCIS at SIS; YIS-S at SAHS, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6
SAHS at TCIS; Daegu at SFS; KIS at SIS, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
SAHS at Osan; Daegu and YIS-S at SIS; TCIS at KIS, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 11
SIS at Osan; TCIS at Daegu; YIS-S at SFS; KIS at SAHS, 3:30 p.m.

Division II

Wednesday, March 4
IIS at CCS; GVCS at GSIS, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
ICS-Uijongbu at GSIS, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 11
ICS-Uijongbu at CCS; GSIS at IIS; ICS-Pyeongtaek at KKFS, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
ICS-Uijongbu at KIS; APIS at ICS-Pyeongtaek, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6
CCS at Osan; ICS-Uijongbu at YIS-S, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
APIS at GVCS, 3:30 p.m.

Okinawa

Boys soccer

Saturday, March 7-Sunday, March 8
Kadena and Kubasaki in 6-on-6 Camp Schwab tournament.

Girls soccer

Saturday, March 7
Yomei at Kadena, 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 8
Kubasaki at Naha Shogyo, 1 p.m.; Ura-soe at Kadena, 3 p.m.

Baseball

Friday, March 6
Kadena vs. Kubasaki at Field 9, Foster Athletics Complex, Camp Foster, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
Okinawa Try Young vs. Kadena at Chibana Recreation Area, 10 a.m.

Tennis

(matches begin at 4 p.m.)
Thursday, March 12
GW vs. St. John's at Hilton; AOLG at Southern; St. Paul vs. SSHS at JFK; JFK vs. FD at Tamuning; Guam High vs. Harvest at Tiyan

Monday, March 16
Okkodo at Southern; AOLG at JFK; Harvest vs. St. John's at Hilton; St. Paul vs. GW at Tiyan; Guam High vs. FD at Tamuning

Softball

Wednesday, March 4
JFK vs. SSHS at Yigo; AOLG at Okkodo; ND vs. GW at site TBA; Guam High vs. St. Paul at Southern, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
AOLG vs. ND at Southern; Guam High at Okkodo, 10 a.m.; JFK at Southern; SSHS vs. St. Paul at Okkodo, noon

Boys basketball
(games start at 5:30 p.m. except where noted)

Friday, March 6
Okkodo at St. Paul; Guam High at FD, 5:30 p.m.; ND at GW; SSHS vs. JFK at Sports Complex, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
SSHs at St. Paul; JFK at St. John's; Guam High at ND; Southern at FD.

Tuesday, March 10
SSHs at FD, 5:30 p.m.

Game of the week

Girls soccer

Zama American at Matthew C. Perry
When: 5:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday

Where: Matthew C. Perry High School, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

What: Opening weekend of the DODDS-Japan Girls Soccer League season, pitting last year's champion Trojans at the host Samurai in a matchup of teams loaded with experience and talent that can each be a threat in their respective Far East tournaments in May.

Players to watch: Senior Danielle Dobson, a transfer from Florida, has become an immediate Samurai star with nine goals and three assists. She joins returning senior Karla Stroud (6, 4) and junior midfielder Heather Hyson in driving Perry's offense. They go up against the Trojans' prolific Ashliman sister duo of junior Aubrey (58 goals as a freshman and sophomore) and sophomore Mallarie (43 goals last season), and junior transfers Katie Scully from Hawaii and Taylor Russell from Kadena.



JOHN DUNN/AP

Islanders goalie Yann Danis makes a pad save on Avalanche forward Ryan Smyth during the first period on Monday in Uniondale, N.Y. New York beat reeling Colorado despite Smyth's two goals.

Islanders keep Avs reeling

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Ryan Smyth's brief stint on Long Island began with tears and ended after a quick playoff appearance failed to give him enough reasons to stay.

The Avalanche forward returned to Nassau Coliseum on Monday night for the first time since spurning the Islanders' efforts to keep him two years ago, and felt the wrath of the jilted fans, who booed him all night.

He responded with two goals, but it wasn't enough for his sliding team that lost 4-2.

"There are only a few guys that were around when I was here," Smyth said of the Islanders, who own the NHL's worst record. "They're young. They are trying to fight for their jobs, for their career to establish themselves as a full-time player. You saw their work ethic."

A season-high, six-game road trip began as a chance for Colorado to get back into the Western Conference playoff race, but five straight losses left them at the bottom of the standings and wondering how things went so wrong.

"We just haven't played well enough, haven't played smart enough, haven't had good starts," Avalanche coach Tony Granato said. "We make mistakes at this time of year that we shouldn't make, and when we do make them they end up in the net."

The trip started with promise, a solid 4-1 victory over the Washington Capitals. But the Avalanche (28-35-1) lost the rest and were outscored 14-3 in consecutive losses to New Jersey and New York's Rangers and Islanders.

"We just got outworked," said Smyth, who has 23 goals. "That's one thing we can control, our work ethic on a nightly basis."

There is no talk of the postseason around the Islanders. They are just looking to get as much as they can from teams in the playoff hunt that might be interested in their veterans before the NHL trade deadline on Wednesday.

New York already sent forward Mike Comrie and defenseman Chris Campoli to Ottawa last week, and captain Bill Guerin hasn't played the past two games as he waits for an inevitable deal.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
d-Boston	42	12	9	93	215	142
d-New Jersey	41	19	3	85	196	153
d-Washington	40	19	5	85	213	188
Philadelphia	33	18	10	76	198	178
Montreal	34	22	7	75	194	189
Florida	32	23	8	72	177	175
N.Y. Rangers	32	24	8	72	159	175
Pittsburgh	32	26	6	70	195	196

Carolina	32	27	5	69	169	186
Buffalo	31	25	7	69	182	175
Toronto	25	26	12	62	191	227
Ottawa	23	28	10	56	152	176
Tampa Bay	21	30	12	54	164	204
Atlanta	23	34	6	52	188	221
N.Y. Islanders	20	36	7	47	154	206

Western Conference

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
d-San Jose	42	10	9	93	205	148
d-Detroit	41	14	8	90	234	187
d-Calgary	37	19	6	80	201	183
Chicago	35	17	9	79	205	155
Vancouver	32	22	8	72	186	175
Columbus	31	26	6	68	168	176
Edmonton	31	26	5	67	173	188
Anaheim	31	28	5	67	180	188

Nashville	31	28	4	66	159	172
Minnesota	30	26	5	65	155	144
Dallas	29	26	7	65	179	191
St. Louis	28	26	8	64	173	181
Los Angeles	26	27	9	61	160	179
Phoenix	27	31	5	59	159	193
Colorado	28	35	1	57	171	204

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss. d-division leader

Sunday's games

New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 3
Chicago 4, Los Angeles 2
Florida 6, Washington 2
Pittsburgh 4, Dallas 1
Tampa Bay 8, Calgary 6
Vancouver 3, Columbus 1

Monday's game

N.Y. Islanders 4, Colorado 2

Tuesday's games

Florida at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Boston
Los Angeles at Columbus
Carolina at Washington
Calgary at Ottawa
New Jersey at Toronto
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay
Edmonton at Nashville
Anaheim at Chicago
Detroit at St. Louis
Minnesota at Vancouver
Dallas at San Jose

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Buffalo
Detroit at Colorado

Thursday's games

Phoenix at Boston
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders
Calgary at Philadelphia
Toronto at Washington
Edmonton at Ottawa
Pittsburgh at Florida
Columbus at Nashville
Dallas at Los Angeles
Minnesota at San Jose

Monday

Islanders 4, Avalanche 2

Colorado	0	1	1-2
N.Y. Islanders	1	2	1-4

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, McAmmond 5 (Sim, Tambellini), 13:15. Penalties—Martinek, NYI (holding), :58; Sim, NYI (tripping), 18:49.

Second Period—2, Colorado, Smyth 22 (Stastny, Hejduk), :33 (pp.). 3, N.Y. Islanders, Joensuu 1 (Sim, Callahan), 2:31. 4, N.Y. Islanders, Gervais 1 (Sim, Comeau), 13:04. Penalties—Laperriere, Col (holding), 14:40; McAmmond, NYI (hooking), 16:53.

Third Period—5, Colorado, Smyth 23 (Svatos, Salei), 1:02. 6, N.Y. Islanders, Tambellini 3 (Streit), 4:48. Penalty—Foote, Col (interference), 5:10.

Shots on Goal—Colorado 6-7-9—22. N.Y. Islanders 12-17-31.

Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 3; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 2.

Goalies—Colorado, Raycroft 12-10-0 (31 shots-27 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Danis 7-9-2 (22-20).

A—11,298 (16,234). T—2:11.

College basketball roundup

Wildcats flip Irish shut-off

Tight game becomes rout during ND drought

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Villanova's defense was at its best with the game on the line.

After Ryan Ayers hit a three-pointer with 11 minutes left to cut the 11th-ranked Wildcats' lead to 51-50, Villanova forced Notre Dame to miss seven shots and commit four turnovers during the next six-plus minutes to open a 16-point lead en route to a 77-60 victory Monday night.

"We just kept getting stop after stop," Villanova forward Shane Clark said. "If they hit a three, we tried to come down and be aggressive. And if they started to come back, we just tried to get another stop."

Villanova coach Jay Wright said he was worried about slowing down Notre Dame's offense heading into the game.

"For us to defend them like that is the best performance we've had in a long time," Wright said.

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said the scoring drought was typical of what has plagued the Fighting Irish, who were ranked as high as No. 7 earlier this year before a seven-game losing streak sent their season into a spiral.

"I'm surprised at times when we haven't been able to establish ourselves offensively even against some speed and some quickness," he said. "I thought we could be a little more consistent overall with that. That's been a little confusing for me at times."

After hitting a three-pointer 18 seconds into the game for the Irish, Kyle McAlarney made just one more basket the rest of the game to finish 2-for-7 from the floor for five points, 11 below his average.

The Wildcats also turned the ball over a season-low five times after committing a season-high 20 turnovers in a loss to Georgetown on Saturday. They scored 21 points off 15 Notre Dame turnovers.

Wright credited the heart of his seniors.

"We have a clunker like Saturday, but they never quit. They always come back," Wright said. "This group has always been like this."

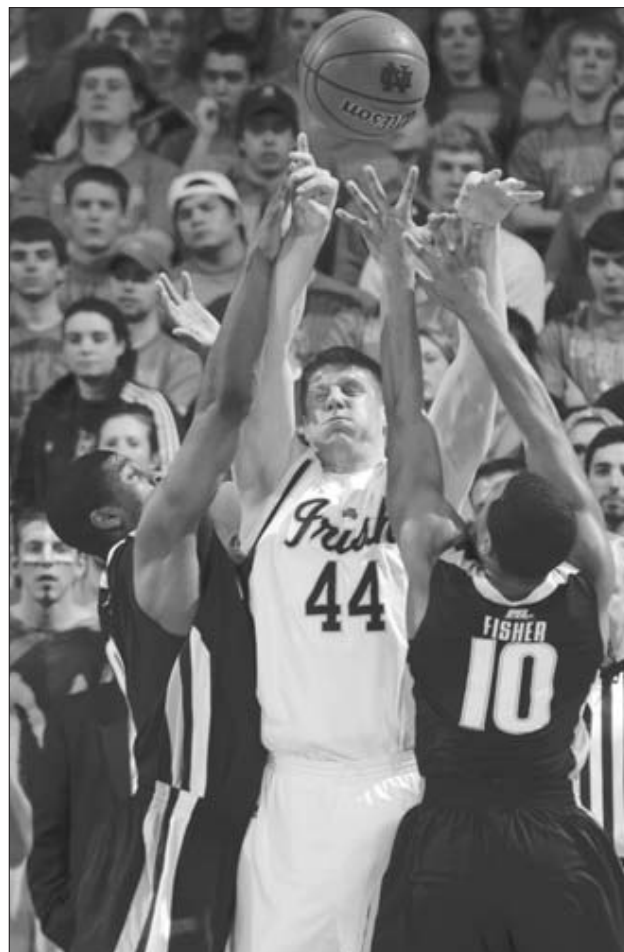
Scottie Reynolds scored 23 points, Dante Cunningham added 18 and eight rebounds and Clark added 13 points for the Wildcats (24-6, 12-5 Big East).

Wright said it was Reynolds' best game as a point guard this season.

"I didn't see his stats, I don't have to," Wright said. "He just controlled the game," he said.

Reynolds made all four three-pointers he took in the second half, finishing 6-for-7 from beyond the arc.

"I told Coach Wright in the first half, they were backing off and every time, I could come down and shoot the three, but I wanted to get the ball moving and make them play defense," he said. "In the second half, I just hit one and



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Villanova's Antonio Pena, left, and Corey Fisher pressure Notre Dame forward Luke Harangody during the first half on Monday.

it came and came. It was just in the flow of the game."

Ayers, who led the Irish with 25 points on 8-for-12 shooting, including 7-for-10 from three-point range, said the Wildcats "got up in us and made us feel uncomfortable."

"They got some runs on offense and that's what triggered their defense," he said.

Luke Harangody added 18 points and seven rebounds for the Irish, who made just 10 of 20 free throws.

"That hurt us," Brey said.

The loss ensures the Irish (16-13, 7-10) will finish with a losing league record and will likely need to win the Big East tournament to earn a third straight NCAA tournament berth.

"There is a postseason for this basketball team," Brey said. "We'll see what it is."

Texas 73, Baylor 57: At Austin, Texas, Dexter Pittman scored 16 points, sending the Longhorns to their 24th straight victory over the Bears.

A.J. Abrams and Justin Mason each scored 14 points for the Longhorns (20-9, 9-6 Big 12), who haven't lost to Baylor since the 1997-98 season, the last before coach Rick Barnes took over

the Texas program. The win also guaranteed Texas a winning record in the Big 12, solidifying their position for an at-large berth to the NCAA tournament.

LaceDarius Dunn scored 15 points for the Bears (17-12, 5-10), who have been in a free-fall the season after making the NCAA tournament for the first time in 20 years. Baylor lost its sixth straight Big 12 road game and has lost 9 of its last 11 games overall.

Davidson 90, Elon 78: Stephen Curry scored 26 points, reached the 2,500-point mark for his career and helped the Wildcats to a road victory.

The nation's leading scorer hit the 20-point mark for the 15th straight game to lead the Wildcats (25-6, 18-2 Southern Conference). They shot 63 percent in the second half while at times revving up the potent offense that carried them within a missed three-pointer of last year's Final Four.

Now they're ready for the ride to begin again, starting with a bid later this week to claim a fourth straight SoCon tournament title.

Bryant Barr scored 18 points, Steve Rossiter added 17 and Will Archambault had 13 for Davidson

NBA roundup

Thunder stun Mavericks

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — With his team trying to protect a thin lead for the last playoff spot in the West, Rick Carlisle didn't see the kind of fight he'd hoped for from the Dallas Mavericks.

Instead, it was the last-place Oklahoma City Thunder providing some unexpected punch without Kevin Durant or Jeff Green in the lineup.

Russell Westbrook had the first triple-double of his rookie season with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and midseason pickup Nenad Krstic added a season-high 26 points as the undermanned Thunder beat Dallas 96-87 Monday night without their two leading scorers.

Westbrook, chosen the Western Conference Rookie of the Month earlier in the day, got the final assist and rebound he needed in the last 45 seconds to seal the franchise's first triple-double since it moved from Seattle in the offseason.

"He was big. He's been big," guard Thabo Sefolosha said. "He's a great player and he showed it tonight with two of our main guys out. He really stepped up."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter to lead Dallas back from 23 points down, cutting the deficit to 88-84 with his three-pointer from the right wing with 4:13 to play. The Mavericks then went scoreless for the next 4 minutes to take a costly loss in the playoff race.

Dallas now leads Phoenix by only 1½ games for the last playoff spot in the West.

"If anybody thinks it's going to be easy, I don't know where they've been for the first 60 games because nothing's come easy for us," Carlisle said.

"The guy I feel for is (owner) Mark Cuban tonight. He lives and dies with this team, and to see the way we played the first three quarters, we should all be ashamed."

Jason Terry scored 20 points for Dallas in his second game back after surgery on an injured finger. The Mavericks played the second half without Josh Howard, their third-leading scorer, after a troublesome left ankle flared up



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Oklahoma City Thunder center Nenad Krstic, right, releases a shot in front of Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, left, during the third quarter Monday. Krstic had 26 points as the Thunder won 96-87.

again. He missed 11 games earlier this season because of the injury.

Carlisle wasn't looking for any excuses, though.

"I just thought that the first three quarters were just a pitiful display for a team that has aspirations to be in the playoffs and try to move up in the standings," Carlisle said. "We've seen this before, too many times."

"We [mess] around for two to three quarters and then we want Jason Kidd to bail us out with steals and hustle plays and fast-break opportunities. It's just too much to ask."

The late surge was almost enough for a team that overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter of an overtime victory against the Thunder only three days earlier.

"Losing the last game against them after overtime, we felt like we really had to come big tonight and prove to them and prove to our fans that we could beat them," Sefolosha said.

Westbrook joined 13 other players in franchise history with a triple-double. Earl Watson was the last, on Feb. 6, 2008 at Sacramento.

"It feels good, especially with a win," Westbrook said. "I think if I keep coming out and playing aggressively, I'll get another one — hopefully."

Cavaliers 107, Heat 100: At Miami, LeBron James scored 42 points, Mo Williams got 17 of his 30 in the fourth quarter, and Cleveland rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final minutes.

Dwyane Wade had 41 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and seven steals for Miami following his 46-point effort two nights earlier against New York.

Williams got the comeback going with two huge three-pointers to spark a 12-0 run. And James sealed it with 42.7 seconds left with a fierce right-handed slam.

Cleveland moved a full game ahead of idle Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Spurs 106, Clippers 78: At Los Angeles, Tony Parker had 26 points and 10 assists, and San Antonio pulled away in the third quarter with four three-pointers from Michael Finley.

Tim Duncan had 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists. The 11-time All-Star needs 18 points to overtake Scottie Pippen for 44th place on the career scoring list.

Al Thornton and Fred Jones each had 14 points for the Clippers, who have lost 11 straight against San Antonio and 19 of the last 20 meetings.

Hornets 98, 76ers 91: At Philadelphia, David West had 30 points with 10 rebounds to lead New Orleans to its season-best fifth straight victory. West scored the Hornets' first 12 points as they raced to a 13-point lead.

The Sixers lost for the sixth time in eight games since the All-Star break. Andre Iguodala scored 30 points and Andre Miller had 28 for Philadelphia.

Hawks 98, Wizards 89: At Washington, Marvin Williams scored 28 points, and Atlanta completed a 4-0 season sweep of the Wizards. Al Horford added 16 points, and Joe Johnson had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who broke open a tie game with a 20-6 run that started late in the third quarter and went well into the fourth.

Washington fell to 0-13 against the Southeast Division and is just three games away from becoming the first NBA team to go winless within its division.

He did not elaborate on what Anthony did to earn the suspension.

The Denver Post, citing anonymous sources, said Anthony refused to come out of the game in the third quarter when coach George Karl tried to remove him.

Whatever got Anthony in trouble wasn't apparent to reporters sitting courtside at the game, and Nuggets spokesman Eric Sebastian said the team didn't want to disclose the nature of the infraction. He said, however, that it didn't involve Anthony's technical foul after he argued about a non-call on his layup with 5:18 left in the Nuggets' 100-94 loss to the Pacers.

Anthony won't play in the Nuggets' game Tuesday night at Detroit. He will return to

the lineup for the Nuggets' game Thursday night against Portland in Denver. The Nuggets lead the Trail Blazers by 1½ games in the highly competitive Northwest Division.

Earlier Monday, the team had said that Anthony was returning to Denver to attend to a personal matter, leading to speculation his departure from Detroit had something to do with his balky knee that's been bothering him for some time.

This is Anthony's second suspension this season, both of them meted out by the team. He sat out the first two games of the season as punishment for his drunken driving arrest last spring while the Nuggets were pushing for a playoff berth.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Cleveland	47	12	.797	—
d-Boston	47	14	.770	1
d-Orlando	43	16	.729	4
Atlanta	34	26	.567	13½
Miami	31	28	.525	16
Detroit	29	29	.500	17½
Philadelphia	29	30	.492	18
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	19½
Chicago	27	33	.450	20½
New Jersey	26	33	.441	21
Indiana	26	36	.419	22½
Charlotte	25	35	.417	22½
New York	24	35	.407	23
Toronto	23	38	.377	25
Washington	14	46	.233	33½

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-L.A. Lakers	48	12	.800	—
d-San Antonio	40	19	.678	7½
d-San Antonio	39	19	.672	8
d-Denver	39	21	.650	10
d-Houston	38	22	.633	9
New Orleans	37	22	.627	10½
Portland	37	22	.627	10½
Utah	37	23	.617	11
Dallas	36	24	.600	12
Phoenix	34	25	.576	13½
Golden State	20	39	.339	27½
Minnesota	18	41	.305	29½
Memphis	15	43	.259	32
Oklahoma City	15	45	.246	33½
L.A. Clippers	15	46	.243	33½
Sacramento	13	48	.213	35½

d-division leader

Sunday's games

Detroit 105, Boston 95	Phoenix 118, L.A. Lakers 111
New Orleans 99, New Jersey 96	Houston 105, Minnesota 94
Indiana 100, Denver 94	Portland 102, San Antonio 84
Cleveland 88, Atlanta 87	Dallas 109, Toronto 98
Utah 112, Golden State 104	

Monday's games

Atlanta 98, Washington 89	New Orleans 98, Philadelphia 91
Cleveland 107, Miami 100	Oklahoma City 96, Dallas 87
San Antonio 106, L.A. Clippers 78	

Tuesday's games

Phoenix at Orlando	Chicago at Charlotte
Denver at Detroit	New Jersey at Milwaukee
Golden State at Minnesota	Toronto at Houston
Indiana at Sacramento	Memphis at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games

Milwaukee at Cleveland	Phoenix at Miami
Boston at New Jersey	Atlanta at New York
Washington at Oklahoma City	Golden State at Chicago
Houston at Utah	San Antonio at Dallas
Indiana at Portland	Memphis at L.A. Clippers

Monday

Thunder 96, Mavericks 87

DALLAS — Nowitzki 10-21 7-8 28, Howard 3-7 0-0 7, Dampier 2-2 0-0 4, Kidd 4-2 2-2, Wright 0-3 0-0 0, George 0-2 0-0 0, Terry 1-0 0-0 20, Singleton 3-2 2-8, Barea 1-6 0-2, Bass 1-3 2-2 4, G.Green 2-4 0-5, Totals 34-80 12-14 87.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sefolosha 6-11 2-2 15, Collison 1-3 0-0 2, Krstic 10-16 6-7 26, Westbrook 6-18 4-17, Weaver 7-13 2-2 18, Rose 3-5 1-7, Watson 0-2 0-0 0, Swift 2-4 0-0 4, Wilkins 3-5 0-1 7, Totals 38-77 15-17 96.

Dallas 23 21 15 28-87

Oklahoma City 23 25 31 17-96

Three-Point Goals—Dallas 7-24 (Terry 4-8, Howard 1-2, G.Green 1-2, Nowitzki 1-4, Barea 0-2, Wright 0-3, Kidd 0-3), Oklahoma City 5-13 (Weaver 2-4, Westbrook 1-2, Sefolosha 1-2, Wilkins 1-3, Watson 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 41 (Singleton 6), Oklahoma City 48 (Westbrook 10). Assists—Dallas 17 (Nowitzki 6), Oklahoma City 23 (Westbrook 10). Total Fouls—Dallas 15, Oklahoma City 18. Technical—Dallas coach Carlisle, Singleton, Dallas defensive three second. A—18,527 (19,134).

Hornets 98, 76ers 91

NEW ORLEANS — Stojakovic 2-6 0-0 6, West 12-26 6-30, Chandler 4-8 1-2 9, Paul 6-16 2-2 16, Butler 5-11 3-4 16, Posey 4-9 5-6 16, Marks 1-1 2-3, Daniels 1-2 0-0 2, Wright 1-0 0-0. Totals 36-80 18-22 98.

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 11-18 6-6 30, Young 5-12 0-0 11, Dalembert 1-4 0-0 2, Miller 12-16 4-4 28, Green 3-12 0-0 7, Evans 0-0 0-0 2, Williams 2-9 5-6 9, Speights 1-7 0-0 2, Ivey 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 36-80 15-18 91.

New Orleans 21 25 25 27-98

Philadelphia 14 31 22 24-91

Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 10-16 (Butler 3-5, Posey 3-6, Paul 2-2, Stojakovic 2-3), Philadelphia 4-16 (Iguodala 2-5, Young 1-2, Green 1-5, Williams 0-4). Rebounds—New Orleans 55 (Posey 12), Philadelphia 41 (Evans 8). Assists—New Orleans 22 (Paul 12), Philadelphia 20 (Miller 7). Total Fouls—New Orleans 14, Philadelphia 20. Technicals—Daniels, New Orleans defensive three second. A—14,299.

Cavaliers 107, Heat 100

CLEVELAND — James 13-21 10-10 42, Varejao 5-0-0 6, Ilegua 5-13 2-4 12, Williams 10-19 8-9 30, West 3-6 0-0 8, Szczerbiak 0-1 1-1 1, Gibson 1-5 0-0 3, Hickson 2-5 1-1 5, Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Pavlovic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-76 22-25 107.

MIAMI — Moon 5-10 0-1 11, Haslem 3-9 3-3 9, O'Neal 8-13 0-10 16, Chalmers 5-12 3-3 13, Wade 16-30 7-9 41, Dwyane 10-20 0-0 0, Beasley 2-5 4-6 8, Anthony 0-1 0-0 0, Jones 0-1 0-0 0, Diawara 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 39-84 17-22 100.

Cleveland 30 28 18 31-107

Miami 26 29 27 18-100

Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 11-17 (James 6-12 0-0 14, Dampier 2-3, Williams 2-3, Gibson 1-2), Miami 5-18 (Chalmers 2-5, Wade 2-6, Moon 1-4, Diawara 0-1, Cook 0-2). Rebounds—Cleveland 45 (Ileguauskas 15), Miami 47 (Haslem 9). Assists—Cleveland 24 (Williams 7), Miami 20 (Wade 9). Total Fouls—Cleveland 25, Miami 20. Technicals—Cleveland defensive three second, Wade, Miami defensive three second. A—19,600 (19,600).

Spurs 106, Clippers 78

SAN ANTONIO — Finley 5-11 0-0 14, Bonner 6-12 0-0 14, Duncan 7-11 4-5 18, Parker 10-19 6-6 26, Mason 1-9 0-0 2, Hairston 4-7 0-0 8, Thomas 3-6 3-3 9, Bowen 1-2 0-0 3, Hill 2-4 0-0 4, Oberto 1-3 0-0 2, Udoka 3-6 0-0 6, Vaughn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-90 13-14 106.

L.A. CLIPPERS — Novak 3-8 3-3 11, Thornton 5-15 1-6 14, Camby 5-6 2-2 12, B.Davis 4-14 2-3 10, Taylor 5-15 3-4 13, Jones 5-9 2-2 14, Acker 0-4 0-0 0, Jordan 1-1 2-4 4, Skinner 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-76 18-24 78.

San Antonio 26 23 31 26-106

L.A. Clippers 21 15 23 19-78

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 7-23 (Finley 4-7, Bonner 2-5, Bowen 1-2, Hairston 0-1, Udoka 0-1, Mason 0-6), L.A. Clippers 4-12 (Jones 3-3, Novak 2-4, Acker 0-1, B.Davis 0-4). Rebounds—San Antonio 58 (Duncan 12), L.A. Clippers 44 (Camby, Taylor 8). Assists—San Antonio 28 (Parker 10), L.A. Clippers 16 (B.Davis 8). Total Fouls—San Antonio 19, L.A. Clippers 13. Technical—San Antonio defensive three second. A—17,649 (19,060).

Hawks 98, Wizards 89

ATLANTA — Williams 11-15 2-3 28, Smith 6-12 1-5 13, Horford 7-12 2-2 16, Bibby 3-11 0-7, Johnson 5-11 5-5 16, Evans 0-1 0-0 0, Pachulia 2-2 6-10, Murray 2-6 0-0 4, Law 0-0 2-2 2, Jones 1-1 0-2 2, West 0-0 0-0 0, Morris 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-71 18-25 98.

WASHINGTON — Blatche 6-10 0-0 12, Jamison 7-19 8-10 23, Songaila 5-9 2-2 12, James 4-13 1-2 9, McGuire 3-7 0-0 6, McGee 6-9 2-14, Young 1-5 0-0 3, Crittenton 5-9 0-0 10. Totals 37-81 13-16 89.

Atlanta 24 22 25 27-98

Washington 22 23 18 26-89

Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 6-15 (Williams 4-5, Bibby 1-3, Johnson 1-3, Evans 0-1, Murray 0-2), Washington 2-7 (Jamison 1-1, Young 1-2, James 0-4). Rebounds—Atlanta 42 (Horford 8), Washington 46 (Jamison, McGee 9). Assists—Atlanta 23 (Johnson 13), Washington 23 (McGuire 9). Total Fouls—Atlanta 16, Washington 17. Technical—Washington defensive three second. A—10,189 (20,173).

Nuggets suspend 'Melo for 'in-game transgression'

By ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets have suspended Carmelo Anthony for one game for an "in-game transgression" Sunday against Indiana.

"There is a code of conduct that we take very seriously, especially from a leader and co-captain," Rex Chapman, vice president of player personnel, said Monday. "Carmelo knows this and regrets what happened. He is a very competitive person and made a poor decision in the heat of the moment. We look forward to having him back on Thursday and will have no further comment at this time."

He did not elaborate on what Anthony did to earn the suspension.

The Denver Post, citing anonymous sources, said Anthony refused to come out of the game in the third quarter when coach George Karl tried to remove him.

Whatever got Anthony in trouble wasn't apparent to reporters sitting courtside at the game, and Nuggets spokesman Eric Sebastian said the team didn't want to disclose the nature of the infraction. He said, however, that it didn't involve Anthony's technical foul after he argued about a non-call on his layup with 5:18 left in the Nuggets' 100-94 loss to the Pacers.

Anthony won't play in the Nuggets' game Tuesday night at Detroit. He will return to

the lineup for the Nuggets' game Thursday night against Portland in Denver. The Nuggets lead the Trail Blazers by 1½ games in the highly competitive Northwest Division.

Earlier Monday, the team had said that Anthony was returning to Denver to attend to a personal matter, leading to speculation his departure from Detroit had something to do with his balky knee that's been bothering him for some time.

This is Anthony's second suspension this season, both of them meted out by the team. He sat out the first two games of the season as punishment for his drunken driving arrest last spring while the Nuggets were pushing for a playoff berth.

He was suspended for 15 games in the 2006-07 season for his involvement in the Nuggets' brawl with the New York Knicks when he dropped guard Mardy Collins with a punch on Dec. 16, 2006. Ten players were ejected and seven suspended, with Anthony receiving the stiffest punishment from commissioner David Stern.

Anthony, who helped the Americans win the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics last summer, is averaging a team-high 21.6 points and 7.4 rebounds. But he's missed 15 games already this season: 10 with a broken bone in his right hand that cost him an All-Star bid, three because of a troublesome right elbow and two for the suspension to start the season.

Spring training

Wang makes debut, tests foot

The Associated Press

To New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi, Chien-Ming Wang's footwork was right on target.

So were his pitches.

Wang made his first appearance since partially tearing a tendon in his foot running the bases against Houston in June, pitching two scoreless innings for the Yankees in a 5-5 tie with the Astros on Monday.

"I think when you have an injury like that, you watch how they push off and he looked the same as before he got hurt," Girardi said in Kissimmee, Fla. "That means he's comfortable with the way he feels. If he's comfortable with the way he feels, we're obviously a lot more comfortable."

He threw 23 pitches, 12 for strikes, and allowed two singles, which both came on his trademark pitch, the sinker.

Wang's foot was tested when he chased down a bunt in front of home plate and when he ran to cover the base on a groundball to the first baseman.

"I feel good," Wang said. "Nothing wrong."

Wang added he felt "about the same" as he has in previous seasons, including when he won 19 games in both 2006 and 2007.

Wang fared a lot better than Astros starter Mike Hampton.

Hampton allowed four runs and six hits in two innings. He gave up



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The New York Yankees' Chien-Ming Wang pitched two scoreless innings Monday, his first appearance since partially tearing a tendon in his foot in June. Wang threw 23 pitches and allowed two singles.

extra-base hits to Melky Cabrera and Angel Berroa, and didn't work a scheduled third inning because of a high pitch count.

Angels ace John Lackey made his spring debut, too, working two innings of hitless ball in the Los Angeles' 12-3 victory over the Colorado Rockies at Tuscon, Ariz.

"The arm felt great," Lackey said. "I didn't throw the ball inside for strikes like I needed to, but other than that, it was a pretty good place to start."

The Angels ace retired all six batters he faced, with one strikeout.

Last spring, Lackey strained a triceps and missed the first six weeks of the regular season. He said he spent extra time on an exercise program to strengthen his elbow and shoulder as a preventative measure.

"I have not felt any pain going back to last spring," Lackey said.

In other news:

At Glendale, Ariz., White Sox pitchers Jose Contreras and Bartolo Colon threw their first pitches off the mound this spring

training.

Contreras is more than three months ahead of schedule after rupturing his left Achilles' tendon last August. Not only did he throw all his pitches, but several times he dropped his arm angle down and threw sidearm to test the injury.

His fastball had pop on it, leaving pitching coach Don Cooper saying, "Hey, we could plug him [in] tomorrow. But we're not going to do that."

Colon is coming off offseason surgery to clean some bone chips up in his right elbow.

"Bartolo is coming back from a little bit of arm problems," Cooper said. "Jose is coming back from a leg problem, so you can see physically, stuff wise, Contreras is a bit ahead."

Top Dodgers prospect Ivan DeJesus Jr., a shortstop, broke his right leg sliding into home plate during a B game. DeJesus, the organization's minor league player of the year for 2008, is likely done for the season.

MLB briefs

Bonds' trial delayed well into summer

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The perjury trial of Barry Bonds has been delayed at least through July and likely beyond, as an appeal filed by prosecutors over key evidence for the trial winds through the legal system.

Federal court officials on Monday set a schedule for prosecutors and Bonds' lawyers to submit legal written arguments to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals debating the admissibility of three positive drug tests, so-called doping calendars and other evidence allegedly linking Bonds to steroids use.

Jury selection for Bonds' trial had been scheduled to start Monday, but was delayed last week after federal prosecutors announced they would appeal U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston's ruling barring them from showing that evidence to a jury.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty to lying to a grand jury in 2003 when he testified that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. The home run king faces 10 counts of making false statements to a grand jury and one count of obstruction of justice.

Griffey's knee better for Wednesday debut

PEORIA, Ariz. — Now that Ken Griffey Jr.'s swollen knee has improved, he is ready to play in his first game for the Seattle Mariners in a decade.

The 39-year-old slugger hit for about 10 minutes against two Class A pitchers in a simulated game on Monday. Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu then confirmed Griffey will make his spring debut, as planned, at designated hitter on Wednesday night against Australia's national team.

The outing will come 11 days after baseball's leading active home run hitter signed an incentive-filled deal to return to where his career began 20 years ago. Griffey had arthroscopic knee surgery in October.

Griffey, fifth on the career home run list with 611, signed a one-year contract worth \$2 million in base pay on Feb. 21. He could earn \$3 million more if the Mariners have a paid attendance total of 3 million, he has 500 plate appearances and he does not go on the disabled list, according to salary figures obtained by The Associated Press.

Former Yankees pitcher Sturdivant dies at 78

OKLAHOMA CITY — Tom Sturdivant, who pitched the New York Yankees to victory in Game 4 of the 1956 World Series on the day before Don Larsen's famed perfect game, died Saturday. He was 78.

Sturdivant threw a complete game in a 6-2 victory against the Brooklyn Dodgers on Oct. 7, 1956, to even the best-of-seven series at

2-2 and set the stage for the only perfect game in World Series history. Whitey Ford, Sturdivant, Larsen, Bob Turley and Johnny Kucks threw five straight complete games in that series — a feat that hasn't been accomplished since.

Sturdivant was a member of the Yankees teams that played in the World Series in three straight years, beginning in 1955. He went 16-8 in 1956 and 16-6 in 1957, when he led the American League in won-lost percentage and was second with a 2.54 ERA.

He hurt his arm the following year and spent the rest of his career pitching with six teams — Kansas City, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Detroit and the New York Mets.

He finished his 10-year career in 1964 with a record of 59-51 and a 3.74 ERA.

Penny start delayed; Drew has injection

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Boston Red Sox pitcher Brad Penny was scratched from his first scheduled spring training start because of shoulder weakness, and right fielder J.D. Drew went to Boston for an injection in his lower back.

Penny was to have started Thursday against Puerto Rico. He stopped a bullpen session Sunday after 25 pitches.

"I don't think the shoulder strength was quite where it needed to be yet for the workload I was doing," Penny said. "It's better to take it easy right now than to get out there in the first week of April and have it flare up on me."

Penny was limited to 19 games with the Los Angeles Dodgers last year.

"He could pitch Thursday. I just don't know it's in everybody's long-term best interests," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday. "I think the best way I can put it is that he's still putting gas in the tank. I don't consider this a setback at all."

Clay Buchholz will start against Puerto Rico, which is preparing for the World Baseball Classic.

Duchscherer to visit doctor

PHOENIX — Oakland's Justin Duchscherer was scheduled to see a doctor Tuesday to have his sore right elbow examined.

The two-time All-Star, the Athletics' projected opening-day starter, began experiencing tightness in the elbow two weeks into spring training. The right-hander has yet to appear in a game but has maintained a throwing program.

"It's a precautionary thing," A's manager Bob Geren said. "It's been a little tender."

Geren said Duchscherer may have an MRI.

Duchscherer was 10-8 with a 2.54 ERA in 22 starts last season, his first as a starter.

Bobcats: Charlotte still climbing out of 7-18 hole after 25 games

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The Bobcats then sent three-point specialist Matt Carroll and reserve center Ryan Hollins to Dallas for defensive big man DeSagana Diop, who became center Emeka Okafor's chief backup.

The final move had managing partner Michael Jordan signing off on a deal that sent disappointing former first-round pick Adam Morrison and guard Shannon Brown to the Los Angeles Lakers for forward Vladimir Radmanovic, who immediately became Charlotte's sixth man.

"I look around the league. Matt's not playing. Ryan's not playing. They were part of our rotation," Brown said. "Shannon's not playing. Adam's not playing. They were part of our rotation. Until Alvin (Gentry) got the (Phoenix coaching) job, Jared Dudley wasn't playing. He was a starter for a lot of our games. ... You look around and the guys we got are big parts of our team. They're all playing. So you can see the prog-

ress that's been made."

While the Bobcats remain the NBA's lowest-scoring team at 92.8 points per game, they're 18-17 since shortly after Bell and Diaw arrived. They and Radmanovic have also brought a winning attitude from their former teams to mesh with remaining starters Gerald Wallace, Raymond Felton and Okafor, who have never been to the playoffs.

"There is a lot of talent here," said Radmanovic, who was riding the bench in Los Angeles. "Something good can happen if we take care of our part."

While the Bobcats are better defensively and have more balance on offense, starting 7-18 has left them with plenty of work to do.

The Bobcats are just three games behind eighth-place Milwaukee with 22 games left. But they would also have to leapfrog Chicago, New Jersey and Indiana and stay ahead of New York and Toronto to make the playoffs for

the first time in their five-year history.

Beating Chicago on Tuesday would secure the tiebreaker over the Bulls.

"For the most part I think we've been playing pretty good basketball," Brown said. "When we do have problems it's generally turnovers and putting people on the free-throw line and maybe not rebounding defensively as well as we need to. But I think we're rebounding better. We've got to take care of the ball better."

At 68, three years removed from a disastrous season in New York that got him fired, Brown is clearly enjoying his new team.

There's no second-guessing about returning to coaching now. And Philadelphia's record of futility is safe, too.

"I believe with the schedule we had early, if we'd have had this group here, we'd be pretty far along," Brown said. "I think we try to approach every game seeing if we can get better."

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Charlotte responds to makeover

Brown's tinkering gives Bobcats new look, hope

By Mike Cranston
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A few days into training camp last fall, Larry Brown feared the first season of his record ninth NBA head coaching job could be historic — as in historically bad.

With former North Carolina coach Dean Smith watching practice, Brown thought the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers' NBA-worst record of 9-73 was in jeopardy.

"He was at training camp shaking his head," Brown said of Smith, his mentor. "I don't know if he felt that [team] was an ACC contender."

Five months, three trades and an NBA-high 23 players later, Brown had a hop in his step after practice Monday. The new-look Bobcats (25-35) were back in town after winning the final three games of their West Coast trip to move within three games of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

So when Brown called Smith over the weekend to wish him a happy 78th birthday, Brown said Smith repeated the question he asked in training camp: Are you sure you still enjoy coaching?

"I said, 'Yeah, I like it more now,'" Brown said. "I enjoy this team."

Brown's famous impatience and tinkering have produced a much different club than the col-



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Coach Larry Brown's famous impatience appears to be paying off for the Charlotte Bobcats. After five months, three trades and 23 players in uniform this season, the Bobcats are within three games of a playoff spot.

lection of wing shooters and inexperienced big men from October.

Charlotte's biggest deal was its first, sending top scorer Jason Richardson and forward Jared Dudley to Phoenix for Raja Bell and Boris Diaw. Diaw finally gave Charlotte a reliable starting power forward after Sean May's struggles following knee surgery. Bell took over for Richardson at shooting guard.

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BEN MARGOT/AP

Forward Boris Diaw, right, and guard Raja Bell, left, came to the Charlotte Bobcats in a trade with the Phoenix Suns in December. Although Charlotte gave up top scorer Jason Richardson and Jared Dudley, the Bobcats have been bolstered by their acquisitions. Diaw gave the Bobcats a reliable starting power forward, and Bell stepped in at shooting guard for Richardson.

Home Team: Russell (right), Ashliman sisters give unexpected boost to Zama's title hopes

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Father of Raiders' Cooper says Coast Guard losing hope of finding NFL players lost at sea

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Mavericks handed surprising defeat by short-handed Thunder

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